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A HISTORY OF INTERCOLLEGIATE  
FOOTBALL AT DRAKE UNIVERSITY  
FROM 1893 THROUGH 1954

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A Field Report  
Presented to  
The Graduate Division  
Drake University

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Science in Education

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by  
Jack Warren Kaley  
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A HISTORY OF INTERCOLLEGIATE  
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## CHAPTER I

### FOOTBALL AT DRAKE UNIVERSITY

#### BEFORE 1900

Drake coached by playing coaches. Interscholastic football was born at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, on October 12, 1893. On that sunny afternoon, Drake and Des Moines High School battled to a scoreless tie. Since that fall day, Drake has had a gridiron representative for sixty-one consecutive years.

The life of football at Drake has been one of high tides and one of low tides. There have been the glorious years and the disastrous ones. But whether glorious or disastrous, there has never been an uninteresting season. During these sixty-one years of gridiron battling, Drake has emerged from the field victoriously on 258 occasions. With the sweet often comes the bitter, and so it was for Drake followers when the Blue and White failed in her quest for victory and honor in 223 hard fought contests. On twenty-four outings, Drake had to settle for ties with her opponents.

Perhaps the most crucial years in the life of Drake football were those early years preceding 1900. During those years, there were many who would like to have seen "that rough, uncouth game football"<sup>1</sup> fall by the wayside in an

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November, 1893, Vol. 10, p. 6.



inglorious death. It is unlikely that the Drake student of today realizes how closely death came to its most important fall sport during its infant years preceding 1900. However, through the efforts of a handful of farsighted professors and students, who very early realized the importance of football in college life, the battle for survival was fought and won.

The 1893 Drake team was coached by a "man of excellent ability who had formerly played at Yale."<sup>1</sup> Available records fail to reveal this man's name. The "coacher" as he was called probably played on the team. Rules permitted the coach to play in those days. The team was managed by Professor Strong of the Drake faculty whose job it was to schedule games, collect and provide money for equipment, and, in general, see that the team continued to function. The Drake games were played at the Des Moines Athletic Park, which was the home of the Des Moines baseball team. Drake played only three games that year. After tying Des Moines High School, 0-0, she lost to Simpson, 62-0. This one-sided score came as somewhat of a surprise to the Drake students, as evidenced by the Drake Delphic, campus student newspaper, which commented thusly, "For some reason, the Simpson team completely and utterly defeated us in the first game sending our team home to report a

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October, 1893, Vol. 10, p. 5.

score of 62-0."<sup>1</sup> In her second game with Simpson, the last game of the season, Drake fell before the Simpson team 6-0.

The primary source of information during those early years is the Drake Delphic. Reports of the games reveal that play-by-play descriptions were not the vogue. However, personal comments by the writer were very popular; and, undoubtedly, had considerable influence on the school student body. The Delphic was very loyal to anything pertaining to the University. Such was the case in regard to the school papers of Drake's opponents. Much of the ill feeling that plagued the relationships between Drake and the other state schools in the early years of Drake football was kept alive by these school newspapers. This fact will be borne out in later comments and excerpts from the Drake Delphic and other school papers. The following statement is not unusual for the sports' section of the Delphic during the early years of Drake football history:

When the game closed, Drake had the ball within five feet of the goal and fifteen seconds more would have tied the game. Nothing could have stopped our men then; but the referee, an Indianola coach, called time and gave the game to the Simpson men. Strangely enough, the bystanders' watches did not accord with the referee's by several minutes. But, of course, an entirely honest game could not be hoped for.<sup>2</sup>

The year 1894 found Drake under a new coach,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



W. W. Wharton. Wharton was a student in the University as well as a player-coach. Drake won two games and lost two during this season.

Football, as played by the Drake men, was not very highly respected by the students of Simpson. This is evidenced by an article in the Simpsonian, student newspaper of Simpson, which stated that the Simpson second team could handily defeat Drake's first.<sup>1</sup> Simpson, although she did not play her second team, did defeat Drake, 18-0.

It was also during this year that Drake first played one of her oldest rivals, Grinnell College. With the exception of 1895, Drake met Grinnell at least once a year for forty-eight consecutive years. During several of the early years, she played the Grinnell team twice.

Drake had a first and second team during 1894 and during most of the years to follow. These boys on the second team were usually underclassmen. It was hoped that they would provide material for the following year's first team. To give these boys game experience, the second team also played a schedule of games. The Delphic has the following interesting comment after the second team lost to Simpson's second team by a score of 16-0. "The reason for the defeat can probably be traced to the refusal of both the halves

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October, 1894, Vol. 13, p. 6.



and the fullback to play outside the city."<sup>1</sup>

On the surface, it would seem that the years 1893 and 1894 had seen Drake football off to a good start. However, this was not the case; for enemies of the game were organizing forces to discontinue the sport on the Drake University campus. The extreme roughness and brutal character of the game, as played then, caused it to be a very controversial subject on the Drake campus throughout the winter of 1894 and 1895. The Drake Delphic conducted a symposium entitled "Football, Shall We Have It?"<sup>2</sup> in its January, 1895, issue. Six different students presented articles in the symposium and only one, a co-ed, Miss Ida White, was heartily for continuance of the game. The opposition presented such arguments as the many injuries to the players as a result of the mass plays, emphasis on the few and neglect of the many in regard to physical exercise, missing classes as a result of the long trips, slugging and other acts of brutality during the games, and finally the evils of playing without proper physical examinations previous to the season's start.

In defense of the game, Miss White reminded the student body of the physical benefits that resulted from participation.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Delphic, January, 1895, Vol. 14, p. 7.

She mentioned its value as a morale builder within the life of the Drake students when she stated,

Football makes the blood of both spectators and players flow quicker. In most cases, anything that will make the blood flow faster is indeed a God-send. It is better to enthuse over football than not to enthuse over anything.<sup>1</sup>

W. W. Wharton offered some very practical suggestions in an attempt to make the game safer. He suggested that slugging be penalized by expulsion of the player and yardage given to the offended team. Good honorable referees should be employed. Players should be compelled to take physical examinations. They should be required to retire early, train religiously, and eat regularly. Evidently, other football people felt as Wharton did, because the rules were changed in many respects in 1895 in an attempt to stop the many serious injuries and even deaths which were a result of brutal playing methods.

Throughout the winter and spring of 1894 and 1895, the controversy raged on. Those who were in favor of dropping the sport, actually being many fewer in number than those who wished to continue, were either gradually won over to the other view or were ignored entirely, for it was decided definitely to continue football at Drake. In June, 1895, Wendell Huston, Class of 1898, revealed the feelings of a

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.



majority of the student body and set the pattern of thought which has governed the policy of Drake toward football throughout her sixty-one year football history.

Patriotism generated by the game of football is the spirit which gives life to an institution and the principle which animates its progress . . . . Much has been said for and against football during the past few years. Symposiums have been written for and against, but, lo, upon the appearance in print, one and all have been against it. What is the reason of this sudden attack of both college and public instruments? Professionalism, brutal and unfair play, poor officiating and more. But these accusations are cases of the exception and not the general rule . . . . Football will live in spite of all oppositions and attempts to smother it. Of course, it is rather rough, but, that, to a great degree, will be eliminated by the new rules of 1895 . . . . Drake, with McKibbon as captain, will make up the best <sup>1</sup> team in the state when the season of 1895 rolls around.

After the stormy year of 1894, football continued to grow in interest in the hearts of Drake students. The 1895 team, coached by Hermon P. Williams, participated in five games, winning only one and losing four. However, Drake and football were still rather new to each other and 1896 pointed toward a better year.

Fred Rogers captained and coached the 1896 team. Enthusiasm ran high on the Drake campus. The Drake Delphic made special mention of the fact that every able-bodied male should turn out for the squad. "Holiday football"<sup>2</sup> was over

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, June, 1895, Vol. 14, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Delphic, September, 1896, Vol. 14, p. 7.



and Drake meant business. Drake was beginning to be noticed by the Des Moines Register and was getting as much newspaper print as the University of Iowa, Grinnell and Iowa State. Iowa University appeared on the schedule for the first time; and Grinnell, who had not appeared against the Drakes in 1895, was back on the schedule. Drake was still not strong enough to defeat either of these two teams and was defeated by the University of Iowa, 32-0. Grinnell took their measure with a sound 48-0 triumph.

Perhaps the highlight of the season was the heralded eastern trip. Drake was determined to do well on her first road trip of any consequence.

As the time for the long anticipated eastern trip drew near, the promptness of the men on the practice grounds, and the dash and energy of their training, indicated a desire to make the tour a successful one.<sup>1</sup>

Within a period of one week, Drake played five games, winning four and losing one. Drake opened the tour at Monmouth College, whom they defeated, 12-0. The Monmouth players did not appear on the field until 4:15 p. m., and the game was called because of darkness before the regulation time had expired. Drake then moved over to Galesburg where they were defeated by Knox College, 6-0. Their next game found them still in Galesburg, and they defeated St. Albans,

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, December, 1896, Vol. 15, p. 6.

12-0. As the result of a forfeit, Drake's next victory came against Fairfield, whom she defeated, 6-0. The Fairfield men refused to play the second half according to agreement, insisting that the time be changed fifteen minutes from that agreed upon; Drake refused, and the game saw no second half. On Thanksgiving Day, against Mt. Pleasant, each side scored four points. However, on account of the rain and without the consent of the referee, the Mt. Pleasant captain withdrew his team from the field. This was considered a forfeit and Drake was awarded a 6-0 victory. Although a similar trip was planned in 1897, this is the only football playing marathon on record at the Des Moines school.

Drake coached by A. B. Potter. Drake entered the 1897 football season with a squad of twenty-five boys and the distinction of being the major football team in the city. The local Y. M. C. A. decided to abandon football, thus leaving the patronage of the city to Drake.

Fred Rogers was once again elected captain and coach of the team. However, he left school before the first game, and a new coach had to be secured. This new man was A. B. Potter, who was destined to lead the Drake charges for the next three seasons. Mr. Potter was born in Pella, Iowa. At the age of ten, his parents moved to Kansas where he received his grade and high school training. His first two years in college were spent at Baker University. At Baker he began



what developed into a brilliant football career. During his two years there, he played tackle, end and halfback. After completing his sophomore year in 1895, he matriculated at Northwestern University. There, as a halfback, he won fame throughout the middle west. In a biographical sketch of the new coach, the Delphic comments,

As a halfback, his reputation was made, and it is not putting it too strongly to say that he is the most brilliant player to ever chase the festive ball on a Chicago gridiron.<sup>1</sup>

Potter was the first Drake coach who was not also a player. During his three years at the Drake helm, his teams won eleven and lost seven.

As far as winning and losing games are concerned, the Drake team of 1897 was not a successful team. Drake's record of two wins and three losses was not a particularly impressive one. The "Tigers", as Drake teams were then called, were still not able to win the important games.

Both Iowa University and Grinnell took the measure of the Drake men. However, the 16-0 score against the juggernaut from Iowa University was a very respectable score. Drake was justly proud of her boys after this game. However, the humiliating defeat at the hands of Grinnell, 30-0, was exasperatingly unexplainable. The Delphic sums up the feeling

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October, 1896, Vol. 15, p. 7.



of the Drake students with this caption for one of its articles, "S. U. I. bad--Grinnell badder."<sup>1</sup> There was a feeling among Drake supporters that Grinnell exercised some strange kind of hoodoo over the Blue and White team.

Included on the 1897 roster were names of players who in the following year were destined to go down in history as some of Drake's most famous athletes. Such men as Morehouse, one day to be president of Drake University, McGugan, Channing Smith, Sellards, Bliss and Pell were to strike fear in the hearts of all opponents in 1898.

Certainly 1898 was a milestone in the history of football at Drake. This was the year of her first champion. Throughout the school year, she proudly wore the label of "Champions of the West". This impressive title was not easily won and was not attained until the final game of the season. The Blue and White served notice early in the season that she was not to be taken lightly by her opponents. Before she was able to gain a 12-10 victory, Grinnell, who in former years had defeated Drake rather handily, was extended to the limit. Monmouth failed to challenge the men from Drake and fell before the onslaughts of such powerful running backs as C. A. Pell, Joe Sellards, W. L. Bliss and Scott Snyder. The University of Iowa failed to stop the Drake juggernaut

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, December, 1897, Vol. 16, p. 5.

and was defeated by a score of 18-5. However, Iowa State College was not awed by the Blue and White horde. Drake, unable to convert the extra point that would have tied the game, fell before Iowa State, 17-16. Interest in the Drake vs. Iowa State game ran very high, and many followers of both teams turned out for the contest. In describing the crowd, the Drake Delphic mentions a large following from Des Moines, as well as "a large delegation of Ames Rooters were down to cheer their cyclones on to victory and Drake turned out her entire student body."<sup>1</sup>

In acquiring the championship, the Grinnell game posed the largest hurdle. Grinnell had previously beaten the Drake men and reputedly had one of the most potent football teams in her history. Three thousand fans turned out for the crucial Thanksgiving Day game. The field was not in good condition. A heavy snow had fallen; and, although the snow was scraped off the field, a thick coat of ice still remained. This condition was partially remedied by a heavy application of sawdust. With the slippery footing, end runs were of little consequence. However, the game was not without its thrills for both sides. "Hard driving line plays, long, booming punts, and superb drop kicking featured the hard

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, December, 1898, Vol. 17, p. 7.



fought contest which Drake won, 18-16."<sup>1</sup> Thus, the Grinnell hoodoo was finally destroyed.

The issue as to who would be considered champion of the west was settled when, on an extremely cold day, Drake defeated Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska, by a close score of 6-0. Thirteen players played the most prominent roll in winning the championship for the Blue and White. These men and their positions are: E. E. McFerrin and L. O. Burt, left end; J. J. Kies and H. J. Wright, left tackle; H. J. Wright and Dan McGugin, left guard; Dan Moorehouse, center; D. R. Lang, right guard; C. V. Johnson, right tackle; Channing Smith, right end; Joe Sellards, quarterback; J. W. Bliss and Scott Snyder, halfbacks; and C. A. Pell, fullback.

Special mention must be made of the work done by Channing Smith. He was largely responsible for the victorious season. As well as being an excellent player, Smith captained the eleven. During the summer of 1898, he was very active in acquiring funds which went toward purchasing equipment, paying train fares, and paying for numerous other expenses incurred during the season.

Although 1898 was an important year in the history of Drake football, it was also the beginning of something even

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

more important in regard to football at large. It was during this period that the complexion of intercollegiate football began to assume a more healthy appearance. People were beginning to become interested in the game from a spectator standpoint. The tramp athlete was beginning to be frowned upon. The "camp followers"<sup>1</sup> were being eliminated and college athletics were being conducted primarily for college men. Studentship was becoming a requisite for participation. At that time, all the evils had not been eradicated, but a good start toward that end had been made.

The year 1899 saw the Drake team complete their most successful season in regard to games won and lost. During their last year under Coach A. B. Potter, the Blue and White played seven games, winning five and losing two. Even though she enjoyed her most successful year, she was not in the running for the state championship. Because of the Homer Holland incident,<sup>2</sup> Iowa University refused to play Drake. In her only game with the "Big Three", Drake defeated Grinnell, 18-6. No evidence is found that Iowa State refused to play because of the incident. Evidently, she and Drake were unable to find a place on their schedules for a game.

In compiling her best record, Drake handed defeats to

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November, 1898, p. 6.

<sup>2</sup>See Appendix H.



Lenox, 48-5, Cornell, 6-0, Missouri, 11-0, Penn College, 17-5, and Grinnell, 18-6. Her two defeats were suffered at the hands of Kansas, 29-6, and Nebraska, 12-6.

Drake partisans preferred to consider Iowa's opposition to playing Drake as more of an opportunity to avoid playing a very strong opponent rather than a protest against possible professionalism within the ranks of the Drake team. This feeling was, in the eyes of Drake students, greatly substantiated when Nebraska conducted an investigation of the Drake situation and found no trace of professionalism. The Delphic took the following point of view:

What is convincing evidence for the University of Nebraska ought to be worthy of consideration by certain schools of lesser prominence. We await the time when people of Iowa shall know that differences exist between a crusade for pure athletics and a combination for boycott and personal defense.<sup>1</sup>

This statement was evidently directed at Iowa University and Grinnell.

With the close of the nineteenth century, Drake found herself in this unenviable position. She was boycotted by two of her strongest rivals, giving her no chance to compete for the state championship. A. B. Potter, her most successful coach, had resigned. She faced the coming year without the services of six of her 1899 first eleven men. She must

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October, 1899, Vol. 18, p. 6.

replace such stalwarts as Morehouse, Roberts, Wright, Smith, Sellards and Snyder. McFerrin, Bliss, Pell, McGugin and Kies remained for the coming season. In mentioning personnel of the 1899 team, it is interesting to note that nicknames for the players were just as popular then as they are now. On the campus, the football men were known by the following "handles": "Sloppy" Potter, "Captain" Kies, "Pinky" Bliss, "Duke" Snyder, "Plucky Joe" Sellards, "Doc" Pell, "Papa" Smith, "Promisary Dan" McGugin, "Big" Johnson, "High" Wright, "Baby" Maulsby, "Broken Neck" Morehouse, "Sorrel Top" McFerrin, "Kansas" Roberts, "Dear" Bacon, "Farmer" Oelke, "Bone Rubber" Still, "Muck" Stuart, "Sargum" Stevenson and "Curly Top" Coon.



## CHAPTER II

### DRAKE FOOTBALL

FROM 1900 THROUGH 1918

Drake coached by Charles M. Best. As far as football was concerned, the first year of the new century was a good one for Drake. Under the astute tutelage of the new coach, Charles M. Best, the Blue and White team, winning six games and losing three, enjoyed its most winning season. This was the first year that Drake had won six games in one season. By playing nine games, she also exceeded the total schedule of games played in any previous season.

The rift between Drake and the University of Iowa was also mended, and Iowa University, along with Iowa State, once again appeared on her schedule. Consequently, the new century found Drake enjoying a justifiably important role as a member of the "Big Four" in Iowa and in contention for the state championship, a role which had been denied her in the preceeding year.

Perhaps one of the most notable events of the season was the exhibition game played with Grinnell under the arc lights. Although an exhibition game, this was the first night game in the history of Iowa intercollegiate athletics. This game not only paved the way for night football in Iowa but also throughout the United States as well. Nineteen

hundred was the year of another first for a Drake team.

This first occurred in the kicking department of the game. In the Drake vs. Normal game, Captain Bacon drop kicked the first field goal of that nature by a Drake varsity player.

Although Drake fell before the mighty team from Iowa, she was not found wanting in the Iowa State and Grinnell games. One of the highlights of the season was her decisive 16-0 victory over the "Cyclones" from Ames. This was her first victory over the neighboring school of the north. The wearers of the Scarlet and Black from Grinnell fell before the Drakes, 6-0, in the night game and 17-0 in the Thanksgiving Day game.

The most disappointing occurrence of the season was a disastrous 6-5 upset by Penn College of Oskaloosa. The shock to the Drake team and student body was terrific. Overconfidence on the part of Coach Best played a major roll in the humiliating defeat. Thinking that Drake could win easily, he permitted the Penn coach to play in the game. Secondly, instead of playing the Drake varsity, Coach Best played the second team, called scrub eleven in those days, and went down to bitter defeat.

Even though the season was a very successful one from the standpoint of winning games, the Drake fans and student body were lukewarm in their loyalty to the team. With the exception of the Simpson game, which was attended by only one thousand spectators, support by the fans was miserable. The



Delphic commented that "only a few dozen students turned out for the Drake vs. Iowa State game."<sup>1</sup>

From the standpoint of victorious games, the second year of Coach Best's tenure at Drake, although highlighted by victories over Iowa State and Missouri, was not his most successful. The Blue and White won four games and lost four. However that season was not without its thrilling moments both on and off the athletic field.

In an attempt to duplicate the previously successful season of 1900, Coach Best decreed the following rules of conduct for the team:

1. Every man on the field and in uniform every practice session unless excused by the varsity coach. 2. Practice (rain or shine) Sundays and days of games excepted. 3. Any player breaking these rules will be suspended from the squad. 4. All varsity substitutes are considered members of the second team and will be subject to the assistant coach. 5. Anyone absent from practice the week prior to a match game, without an excuse from the coach, will not be admitted to that game without a ticket.<sup>2</sup>

The season had progressed to the second game only, a 6-5 defeat at the hands of Grinnell, when the ever precarious harmony between Drake and her arch rivals, Iowa University and Grinnell, was abruptly shattered. In the game with Grinnell, Drake had the apparent edge throughout the game in everything but the score. She outgained the Scarlet and Black 334 yards to 154 yards. Drake fans and players felt that they

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November 16, 1900, Vol. 19, p. 5.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Delphic, September 27, 1901, Vol. 20, p. 6.



"were robbed by the referee."<sup>1</sup> Before the officials could gain the sanctity of their dressing quarters, one of them, Mr. Lane, was struck in the eye by a blow alledgedly delivered by George Graeser, the Drake left tackle. Of course, Drake vehemently denied that one of her athletes would perform such a dastardly deed. However, these denials did not stop the student newspapers of Iowa University, Daily Iowan, and Grinnell, Scarlet and Black, from tearing open old wounds in their attempts to discredit the Des Moines School. Such charges as Drake's conducting "tricky athletics"<sup>2</sup> and that her student body was a crowd of "hoodlums and criminals"<sup>3</sup> brought quick reprisals from the Drake Delphic.

Perhaps some of the bitterness between the University of Iowa and Drake can best be depicted by the following statement by Coach Knipe of the Hawkeyes after the 6-5 Iowa University victory:

I congratulate Coach Best and his team very sincerely on the good football the Drake men played yesterday. I will say, however, that I have never been in a town where I was so badly used as in Des Moines yesterday . . . . Taking into consideration the happenings in Des Moines Saturday, the Lane incident, the behavior on the sidelines yesterday, and the insults that were addressed to me, I

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 18, 1901, Vol. 20, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.



say that this conduct does not come very well from a college that calls itself a University, but from a college that is suffering from a lack of what is manly and fair and sportsmanlike.<sup>1</sup>

In rebuttal, the Drake Delphic commented thusly on Coach Knipe's criticism of the Drake student body and Des Moines fans:

We saw nothing worthy of such a rebuke on the sidelines of the Drake vs. Iowa University game. Did someone joke Dr. Knipe? We thought it the fairest game of football ever seen in Des Moines. True, Iowa City was not up to last year's standard. True, Drake's coach met the famous Iowa University plays victoriously. We are sorry,<sup>2</sup> if Iowa University's coach did not appreciate that fact.

Thus the bitterness and feuding between the two schools was revived, and the undesirable elements crept back into the relationship between the two schools. As an aftermath of the incident, the Drake Athletic Board suspended Graeser from further participation in athletics for the rest of the year. Evidently, the Athletic Board felt that Graeser did play some role in the assault on the game official.

Two of the highlights of the season were victories over Missouri, 24-0, and the old rival, Iowa State, 12-5. Drake played Grinnell two games during the 1901 season and lost both of them. Grinnell won the first game, as previously stated, 6-5, and the second, 5-0. In what was considered an upset, Simpson downed Drake, 10-5.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 18, 1901, Vol. 20, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

Drake coached by Godlove Orth Dietz. In 1902, Godlove Orth Dietz succeeded Charles Best as coach of the Drake football team. Under Coach Dietz, the men from Drake did well in regard to winning and losing football games. Records show that in playing an eight game schedule, Drake won five games, lost two and tied one. It is interesting to note that Drake, in defeating Iowa State Teachers, 36-5, defeated a team coached by "Doc" Pell, who had previously gained fame as a Drake athlete. Drake was second only to Iowa University in the battle for the state championship. Grinnell fell twice before the Drake team and Iowa State was battled to a 0-0 tie. In their first meeting, Drake handed the team from Grinnell an 11-0 defeat. It was in the second engagement between the two schools that Drake left little doubt about who was master of the situation. In this game, which was played at League Park in Des Moines, Drake established a home scoring record when she defeated the Scarlet and Black, 47-0. Features of the game were touchdown runs of seventy yards from scrimmage by Drake's Kinney and a ninety-five yard touchdown return of a Grinnell kickoff by Main of Drake. This score somewhat atoned for the lopsided 48-0 victory that the 1896 Grinnell team scored over the Drakes.

At Iowa City, Iowa University continued her mastery over the Blue and White with a 12-0 victory. Simpson squeaked by the Drakes by the narrow margin of an extra point.



Final score was Drake 5, Simpson 6. Drake followers felt that the Simpson score would have read differently had not the referee tripped Main of Drake as he broke loose, with a clear field ahead, on the Simpson twenty-five yard line. In typical defensive fashion, the Delphic commented thusly: "Drake and Simpson played the game, but the referee won it."<sup>1</sup>

By being chosen on the "All-Iowa Stars" team, two Drake players received recognition for their good play. Norman Bates was chosen at end and Clay Stewart was chosen at tackle.

Drake coached by William J. Monilaw. William J. Monilaw succeeded Coach Dietz as mentor of the 1903 Drake football team. He was assisted by Julius F. Bacon, who captained the 1900 Drake team. Drake continued her winning ways during the 1903 season. Playing an eight game schedule, the Blue and White won five games and lost three. Both the University of Iowa and Iowa State defeated the Drakes, and Michigan overwhelmed them.

After easy wins over Still College, 36-0, and Penn, 45-0, Drake prepared for the game with arch rival Iowa University. The game was originally scheduled to be played

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 31, 1902, Vol. 21, p. 3.

at League Park in Des Moines. However, after inspecting the park, Iowa University felt that the area was too small and insisted that the game be played at Iowa City. In preparing for the game, Drake held a week of secret practices. Five hundred students, on a special train at \$2.50 per round trip, accompanied the team to Iowa City. Iowa University was not to be denied. Despite the secret practices and the splendid display of student loyalty, Drake could not turn the tide once the powerful state school began to roll. At the end of the game, the score read Iowa 22, Drake 6.

Michigan, coached by the famous Fielding H. Yost, appeared on the Drake schedule for the first time in 1903. Drake took nineteen men on her traveling squad to the Michigan contest. Although the Drakes were not a match for the powerful Wolverines (Michigan 47, Drake 0), the fact that Michigan was willing to play Drake afforded much prestige to the Des Moines school. Yost made the following comment about the Drake team. "The Drake team deserves credit and played a much better game than either of the Iowa schools we have met during the past two years."<sup>1</sup>

Drake continued her mastery over the Missouri Tigers by defeating them 17-0. Simpson, 45-2, Cornell, 25-6, and Grinnell, 32-0, all met the same fate as Missouri. However,

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 28, 1903, Vol. 22, p. 3.



Iowa State ruined the Thanksgiving holidays for the Blue and White followers by defeating her 16-0.

A financial statement concerning football revealed that the organization finished the season with a deficit. Receipts from the games amounted to \$1268.68. Total expenses, not counting the coach's salary, which was not revealed, amounted to \$1300.00. Such expenses as the high cost of equipping the large squad and the exorbitant price charged for the use of the League Park were responsible for the deficit.

As a final tribute to the 1903 team, Coach Monilaw commented:

I do not hesitate to go on record as saying that the Drake University football team of '03 trained more consistently and more faithfully than any team that has, in my knowledge, represented the school. Drake finished the hardest schedule she has ever had with the fewest injuries she has ever known.<sup>1</sup>

Forty men greeted Coach Monilaw at the beginning of the 1904 football season. This group was the largest number to represent the school in its eleven year football history. Although the group was large in number, it was very inexperienced. Several of the 1903 lettermen did not report for practice, and it was necessary for Coaches Monilaw and Bacon to prepare a young inexperienced Drake team for the most difficult schedule in her history.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, December 16, 1903, Vol. 22, p. 4.

Drake opened her schedule with Buena Vista College, who demanded a \$130.00 guarantee for coming to Des Moines. Tickets for the game were to be sold for twenty-five cents each. It is interesting to note that tickets for the Minnesota vs. Nebraska game were selling for from one to three dollars. Realizing that the ticket sale might not be large enough to offset the guarantee and other game expenses, the team manager held a musical benefit to raise the necessary money. After a hard fought game, Drake emerged with an 18-0 victory.

Iowa University enjoyed the honor of assisting the Blue and White in inaugurating the new Drake athletic field. During the pre-game inaugural ceremonies, Governor Cummins of Iowa gave the principal address. However, the Iowa University football team was not in a benevolent mood on that notable day. The powerful Iowa University team defeated Drake, 17-0. Although the Iowa University team was very willing to play at Drake, the Iowa student body was not eager to see the game. Drake sent 120 tickets to Iowa University for pre-game sale. Only four were purchased.

Coe fell easily, 52-0, before the Drake team, and then the Drakes entrained for Madison, Wisconsin, where they sustained the worst defeat in the history of Drake football. The rugged Wisconsin University team out-weighted Drake by thirty pounds to the man.



By making sixteen first downs in the game, Drake salvaged a small amount of prestige. When one considers that Wisconsin University, forced to punt only twice, scored fourteen touchdowns and twelve extra points for an 81-0 victory, Drake's sixteen first downs afforded little consolation.

Evidently Drake's students expected their team to be defeated but not so badly. In a pre-game Delphic article, the following comment was entered:

Next Saturday our football team goes to Madison to play Wisconsin University. Of course we expect to be defeated by a moderate score. The team will make a creditable showing . . . . It is quite an honor to be recognized as<sup>1</sup> worthy of playing such teams as Wisconsin and Michigan.

In her second meeting of a three game series with Michigan, Drake was defeated by the powerful "point a minute" team by a score of 36-4. Drake's four points were the first points scored against Michigan since the last game of the 1902 season.

Drake finished the season with five wins and four losses. Very satisfying victories were scored over arch rivals Simpson, 46-5, and Grinnell, 67-0. In the Grinnell game, Drake scored more points than any other Drake team had ever scored in one game.

Drake coached by W. H. Heston. Previous to the begin-

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November 3, 1904, Vol. 23, p. 3.

ning of the 1905 football season, football enthusiasm ran high at Drake University. This enthusiasm was a result of Drake's having hired William Heston as the varsity football coach. Heston had just graduated from the University of Michigan. Fielding H. Yost, the Michigan University coach, had termed him the greatest halfback in the country.

It was apparent, after the first week of practice, that the Drakes were not qualified to attain pre-season expectations. This apparent weakness was primarily a result of university action in regard to the eligibility of freshmen. The athletic board, in conjunction with old rivals Iowa University and Iowa State, decided to adopt the "freshman rule." This rule forbade freshmen from participating in varsity football. The rule immediately worked a hardship on Coach Heston and his assistant, Fred Jordan. Only seventeen upper classmen were available for varsity competition. Since the freshmen were ineligible, there was no second team from which to draw reserves in the event that varsity men dropped football or were injured.

As limited as the team was in reserve power, it was still able to start the season with convincing victories over Penn, 18-6, and Coe, 32-15. However, injuries to key men brought about a 5-4 upset at the hands of old rival Grinnell. This score was a decided about-face from the



devastating victories that Drake had inflicted upon the Grinnell men in the previous three years.

Michigan University, Coach Heston's alma mater, followed the Grinnell game on the Drake schedule. Travel, then, was primarily by train. Trips as far away from Drake as Michigan University were long and usually very enjoyable for the players. For instance, the Drake team, which was supposed to play Michigan University on Saturday afternoon, departed for Ann Arbor, Michigan, at 10:30 a.m., Thursday. They arrived in Des Moines at 9:00 the following Monday morning. The Michigan University team had little trouble in disposing of the much lighter and inexperienced Drake team by a score of 48-0.

Drake rebounded from the Michigan University defeat with a strong display of strength in her next two games. Simpson felt the wrath of the Blue and White with the final score reading, Drake 75, Simpson 0. In this game, Drake broke her previous high score for one game. The previous high schore had been the sixty-seven points scored against Grinnell in 1904. The Delphic had the following comment about the comeback of the team:

As has been the case for three years now, the Michigan University game seemed to be a stimulant to the team. It may be that a lot of football is learned or that they feel that the worst is over, but the Drake



team begins to pull together.<sup>1</sup>

As a result of the 115 yard touchdown run with a Haskell kickoff by Charles Taylor, the Drakes, in a closely contested game, were able to defeat the Haskell Institute Indians, 10-6. This run, by Taylor, was a record and has never been broken by a Drake player.

Any thoughts that Drake might be in contention for the state championship were rudely shattered by the Iowa University powerhouse. Drake was no match for the Old Gold and was humbled 44-0. This defeat was followed by a 17-12 defeat at the hands of Iowa State on Thanksgiving Day. Iowa State was a heavy favorite, and the close game was almost as surprising as a Drake victory would have been. Thus, Drake closed the season with a four won and four lost record.

Because of the lack of reserve strength, four Drake players played every minute of every game. These men were Ivan Hasbrook, Barry Conaway, 250 pound tackle, Alfred Hoffman, and Charles Taylor.

The year, 1906, was a memorable one in the history of football not only at Drake University but also throughout the United States. Because of the roughness, many injuries and professionalism, many schools dropped the sport. Among those schools who dropped football were such schools as Penn,

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, December 21, 1905, Vol. 24, p. 4.



Simpson and Iowa State Normal. These schools had previously appeared on Drake's schedule. In an effort to save the game, several rules were changed. Most notable of these changes were the following two. Instead of making five yards in three downs for a first down, a team was required to advance the ball ten yards in three downs. The new rules also permitted the use of the forward pass. It was hoped that these new rules would do away with the wedge plays which were causing so many injuries. The wedge play, which was designed to make a short yardage gain, would be ineffective in trying to gain ten yards instead of five for the first down. Of course, the forward pass was an entirely new feature of the game. It was hoped that it would do away with some of the body contact.

The seriousness of the situation for football was manifested in an article published in the Drake Delphic. An excerpt from that article reads as follows:

Everywhere the rules are being made more stringent and the teams being compelled to play under more restrictions. Football is on trial this fall as it never has been before. If the new rules abolish a measure of the roughness and the colleges are able to come to correct standards of financing and managing their football squads, then its future is assured, but otherwise something radical is apt to be done in the not very distant future.<sup>1</sup>

Drake coached by Charles "Doc" Pell. The above problem

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, September 22, 1906, Vol. 25, p. 7.



and several other problems confronted Charles "Doc" Pell in his first year as varsity football coach at his alma mater, Drake University. Pell, who succeeded Wm. Heston, was the first Drake graduate to become varsity football coach at Drake. Pell's first squad at Drake was the smallest in stature to thus far represent the school. The average weight of the team was 161 pounds with the smallest man weighing 140 pounds and the heaviest at 181 pounds.

Because Penn and Buena Vista cancelled their games, Drake was forced to open her schedule with Nebraska University. Even though greatly outmanned and outweighed, Drake managed to hold the Cornhuskers to a lone touchdown while losing to them, 5-0. The fighting spirit of the '06 team was exemplified when the Blue and White held the rugged Nebraska University team for three downs on the Drake six inch line.

Drake's only two wins of the season came at the expense of Des Moines Baptist, 14-6, and the Haskell Indians, 10-0. The game with the Indians was the final one of a two-game series, and, also, Drake did not make a substitution in the entire game. This was the last game in which the two schools met on the gridiron.

Grinnell, after having repelled the Drake forces within her own twenty yard line on six different occasions, with the aid of a field goal, went on to win 4-0.



Iowa University canceled her game with Drake. Fearing that Iowa State would have too much of an opportunity to scout her, Iowa University refused to play in Des Moines. Unsatisfactory relationships once again prevailed between the two schools. As a result of Iowa University's cancellation, Drake scheduled a game with St. Louis University. St. Louis claimed the title of "Champions of the West." In her last seven games, previous to the Drake game, she had not been scored on. The game was played in St. Louis before four thousand people. Drake managed to score nine points, but went down to a 32-9 defeat.

Iowa State was favored to defeat the Drake team by thirty-five or forty points on Thanksgiving Day. However, Drake made a determined effort to prevent this. Several former Drake football players came back to the campus to help Coach Pell ready the team for Iowa State. Despite this intensive preparation, the Blue and White fell before the powerful Cyclones, 7-0.

Al Hoffman, tackle, Arthur Palas, center, Captain Charles Taylor, quarterback, and Frank Loverin, end, were chosen on the All-Iowa team at the end of the season.

Drake finished the season with two wins, four losses and one tie. This was the first year since 1897 that Drake had lost more games than she had won.



Although other schools were considering the abandonment of football at the end of 1906, Drake students, alumni and administrative authorities were very much in favor of continuing it. In defense of football, Drake President, Hill M. Bell, made the following statement:

I believe that the game of football should be fostered in American colleges and universities because of its worth to the student individually and to the school as a whole . . . . In a good game of football conscientiously played, the men are at their best physically, mentally and morally . . . . To my mind, professionalism is the most insidious enemy of the game. The professional coach, whose tenure of office depends upon the successful season, is a reproach to the game and the institution which he represents. . . . Men who played football at Drake University during this season just closed represented every department. They were self-respecting gentlemen who ranked high in scholarship and morals. It is my observation that they stood higher in their class than the average student . . . . Always a supporter of the game, I am more fully committed to it today than I have ever been in the past, for I believe it is now a far better game than ever before.<sup>1</sup>

As far as winning and losing football games was concerned, Drake's football season of 1907 was a duplication of 1906. During Coach "Doc" Pell's second and last year at the Drake helm, the team won two, lost four and tied one.

The largest number of candidates in Drake's short football history turned out for the first football practice in 1907. However, practice started three weeks later at Drake than at any of her opponents. Drake enthusiasts felt that the short time for preparation undoubtedly played some

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, December 15, 1906, Vol. 25, p. 6.



part in the outcome of the Morningside game in which Drake won by a narrow margin of 6-5.

Drake played a game with her alumni for the first time in 1907. Such former Drake stars as Smith, '98, Graeser, '99, Stuart, '03, Jordan, '04, Burcham, '04, Gilbert, '05, Jones, '05, Leverin, '06, and Damon, '06, formed the nucleus of the alumnae team. After seventy minutes of playing, the score remained 0-0.

The wearers of the Blue and White won their second and last football game of the 1907 season when they defeated Coe, 26-0. Grinnell, for the third year in succession, stopped the Drake men, 10-0. Old rival, Iowa University, once again proved too strong for the Drakes.

Creighton appeared on the Drake schedule for the first time. According to Omaha papers, Drake played Creighton in a game that was "reputedly the most spectacular and hard fought ever played in Omaha."<sup>1</sup> Creighton won 21-11.

Because of scheduling difficulties, there was a three week intermission between the Creighton game and the Iowa State game. Iowa State once again had a powerful team and did not consider the Drake unit as much of a threat. However, as in the preceeding year, the Drake ball team played exceptionally well and was barely beaten, 13-8, by the rugged "Cyclones."

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November 30, 1907, Vol. 26, p. 6.



Drake stadium was completed in 1907 and officially named "Haskins Stadium." Mr. Norman Haskins had been the chief donor for the purchase and building of the stadium. It was named in honor of Alvin A. Haskins, the deceased son of Norman Haskins. Alvin Haskins was a Drake law graduate of 1884.

Captain Alfred Hoffman, tackle, was awarded a place on the All-Iowa team.

Drake coached by John L. Griffith. The 1908 season was another very important year in the history of Drake football. On March 5, 1908, Drake University was voted into the membership of the Missouri Valley Athletic Conference. By this act, the members of the Conference, Kansas, Iowa State, Iowa University, Nebraska University, Missouri University and Washington University, acknowledged that Drake was definitely a major power on the gridiron. Drake had at last proved herself a team to be feared and respected by her opponents.

John L. Griffith succeeded "Doc" Pell as the Drake coach. It was to be his lot to serve as head coach for eight years and to compile an enviable record of thirty-six wins, twenty-five losses and three ties. During the 1908 season, Griffith was assisted by Guy A. Crow and Art Palas.

Fifty-five men greeted Coach Griffith at the first practice in the fall of 1908. With this group, Griffith



fashioned one of Drake's best football teams. This team won six games, lost two and tied none.

Drake early served notice that she meant to be a contender for the state title. Until the Grinnell game was over, she held secret practices. Evidently Drake's secret plays did not become known to her opponents because she had little trouble in disposing of the Alumni, 4-0, Leander Clarke of Toledo, Ohio, coached by Ole Kintz, former Drake football player, 45-0, and Coe, 18-0.

Grinnell, who had dominated the Drake team since 1905, was soundly defeated, 9-0. After the Grinnell game, Drake journeyed to Topeka, Kansas, for a game with Washburn College. This game caused considerable controversy on the Drake campus. Many students thought that it was a mistake to take the team on the long trip to Topeka when the Missouri University game was so near. Students felt that the Drakes had a chance to rank high in the Missouri Valley standings. The long trip might jeopardize the team's opportunity. Drake managed to defeat Washburn, 6-0, and no one on the team was injured.

Missouri University was the first team to score on the 1908 Drake eleven. Her eleven points were enough to eliminate Drake from a possible Missouri Valley Championship. Even though Captain Bert McCoy kicked two brilliant field goals, the Drakes could not overcome the eleven point deficit and were defeated, 11-8.

In defeating Iowa University, 12-6, Drake, for the first time in ten years, humbled the Old Gold. If she could defeat Iowa State on Thanksgiving Day, the victory over Iowa University put Drake in a position to win the state championship. In games played during the 1905, 1906 and 1907 seasons, the Drake vs. Iowa State game had been very closely contested. In each of those contests, seven points or less had separated the victor from the vanquished. The 1908 game proved no exception to the afore mentioned pattern. Drake once again lost to her old rival, 12-6, and Iowa State won the championship of Iowa.

Drake finished fifth in the Missouri Valley Conference race. She finished second for the championship of Iowa. Five Drake players were picked on the All-Iowa team. They were Bert McCoy, halfback, Bob Evans, quarterback, Jim Wilson, tackle, Elbert Warren, center, and Harry Woodrow, end.

Drake officials felt that her connection with a conference would help solve some of the problems which were confronting Drake and other schools. One of these problems was that of eligibility. By playing most of her games in a conference, she would be playing teams with the same eligibility rules. Missouri Valley Conference eligibility rules were clearly defined. To be eligible for varsity competition, a student must have spent one year in residence at the school. He must have passed all work of that year and have credit for all college lecture requirements of that year. He must have



satisfactorily been carrying full work in the semester in which he was playing. Thus, a player was limited to three years of varsity competition.

The 1909 season was John L. Griffith's second year as coach of the Drake football team and his most successful. With a team that averaged only 155 pounds to the man, Drake won undisputed title to the championship of Iowa, and, with a two won and one lost record, finished third in the Missouri Valley Conference. With the exception of 1922, when the Drake team went undefeated, and in 1928, when the Blue and White won seven and lost one, thus equalling the 1909 record, no other Drake team has ever bettered or equalled the 1909 record. In compiling her enviable record, Drake stopped six of her eight opponents without a score. As an overall scoring total for the eight games, Drake scored 138 points to her opponents 36.

Early season practice did not indicate that Drake would become such a formidable team. In the September 25 Drake Delphic, the following comment appeared:

The outlook for Drake in football this year is fairly good but certainly not flattering . . . . Drake has fifty-five men out for the team. Forty of these are eligible. Coach Griffith is calling for more men. Some of our opponents have twice as many men.<sup>1</sup>

Evidently new men responded to the coach's request

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, September 25, 1909, Vol. 28, p. 5.

for more men to turn out for the squad. By October 9, the manpower situation on the Drake team was at an all-time high. The Delphic again commented on the numerical condition of the squad.

There is a condition existing here at Drake that seems a novelty to the old timer. Heretofore, when a football game was in prospect, it has almost invariably been a question of what can be done for substitutes. But today an entirely new and, to Drake, novel situation is in evidence; there are from two to four men for each position. Indeed, we have so much material that the coach yesterday sent a bunch of men to try out their prowess on the Pella team.<sup>1</sup>

Drake played seven of her eight football games in "Drake Stadium." The stadium, which had originally been named "Haskins Stadium" received its new name at the request of Mr. Norman Haskins. This was explained formerly the stadium had been originally named after Alvin A. Haskins, the deceased son of Norman Haskins. Mr. Haskins felt that "Drake Stadium" was a more fitting name and requested that the stadium be so named. His request was granted and the name "Drake Stadium" is used today.

Following the example of many other colleges, Drake did not charge the same admission price for each home game. She decided to charge more for what she considered the better games. Ticket prices were fifty cents for the Des Moines Baptist, Alumni, Coe and Simpson games; seventy-

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 9, 1909, Vol. 28, p. 5.



five cents for the Grinnell game; one dollar for the Iowa University game; and one dollar and twenty-five cents for the Iowa State game.

Drake had little trouble in disposing of her first five opponents of the 1909 season. Not one of them scored on the Drake powerhouse. She defeated Des Moines Baptist, 9-0, Drake Alumni, 12-0, Coe, 35-0, Simpson, 16-0, and Grinnell, 32-0.

Iowa University proved to be a formidable opponent. Drake held a 17-0 lead at the half, but Iowa University fought back for fourteen points in the second half. Only a determined goal line stand by Drake in the last minutes of the game salvaged a 17-14 victory for the Blue and White team. Features of the game were a forty yard field goal by Drake's Frank Burcham and the spectacular running of Bobby Evans, who gained 212 yards by rushing. (For the readers' information, the goal posts were situated on the goal line and the field goal had, in 1909, been changed from four to three points.)

In an article written for the 1911 Drake Quax by Dr. S. W. Hobbs, Drake assistant coach, the following excerpt appeared:

The grim determination and dash of the Blue and White would not be denied. The men proved their right to the title "Drake Bulldogs." No more courageous exhibition has the west seen than this fight against odds. Drake outweighed at the least estimate by fifteen pounds to the man, with but two men of the eleven who started the game

in prime condition, handicapped by injuries which precluded a satisfactory week of practice, battled gloriously to victory.<sup>1</sup>

Strong Missouri University, who eventually won the Missouri Valley Conference title, handed Drake her only defeat of the season. Drake fell before her powerful southern rival, 22-6. The Drake team was accompanied to Missouri University by a special trainload of students and the Drake band. Drake was the first visiting team ever to bring its band to the Missouri University campus.

As in the preceeding year, Drake and Iowa State met for the championship of Iowa in their annual Thanksgiving Day game. Fumbles proved to be the deciding factor in the championship game. Drake recovered two Iowa State fumbles near the Iowa State goal line and turned them into touchdowns. Iowa State was not able to overcome these errors and was defeated 11-0.

It was during this year that the Drake team acquired the name of "Bulldogs." This resulted from two circumstances. First, John L. Griffith had two bulldogs who followed him around the campus; and the students became accustomed to seeing these dogs with Griffith. Secondly, a newspaper man described the Drake team as fighting like bulldogs. The phrase,

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<sup>1</sup>Dr. S. W. Hobbs, "Season of 1909", Quax, 1911, Vol. 10, (Des Moines, Iowa: Drake University, 1911), pp. 72-78.



"fight like bulldogs", was used at a Drake pep rally. The slogan caught on with the student body and thus the Drake team acquired the name of "Bulldogs."

The 1909 team received many honors. Among these was the selection of several players on the All-Iowa team. Jim Wilson, tackle, Robert Evans, quarterback, Charles Purdy, fullback, Ira Jones, end, and Bert Warren, center, were chosen on the aforementioned team. Evans was also chosen as All Missouri Valley quarterback. He was Drake's first All Valley selection.

Drake supporters, students, alumni and the Des Moines people enthusiastically supported the 1909 team. With the following statement, the Drake Delphic dedicated its entire December 4, 1909, issue to the football team.

The rapid strides in reputation, and growth made by Drake University in the last year has been but little short of phenomenal. Many conditions and many agencies have contributed their share to this development, but chief among these is the football team of 1909.

The efforts and successes of these members of this team cannot be commended too highly.

Then, because of the many sacrifices of these individuals who have so unselfishly suffered and because of the honor they have brought the school, the Delphic Association wishes to dedicate this souvenir number to the undisputed champions of Iowa.<sup>1</sup>

Radically new rules of the game were important factors in the history of football during the 1910 season. Drake and

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, December 4, 1909, Vol. 28, p. 1.

other major colleges and universities throughout the country observed the following rules: Crawling with the ball, after being tackled, was not allowed. The offensive team was not allowed to push or pull the ball carrier. Upon making contact with the ball carrier, the tackler had to have at least one foot on the ground. Only two ends and any backs who were at least one yard behind the line of scrimmage were eligible to receive a forward pass. A forward pass had to be made five yards behind the line of scrimmage. Forward passes were not legal if they went more than twenty yards beyond the line of scrimmage.

During the 1909 Drake vs. Alumni game, the alumni, not being in good physical condition for playing football, called time out for a rest period about every fifteen minutes. As a result of this game, the game was divided into four fifteen minute quarters.

At the beginning of the 1910 season, another large squad of eligible men reported to Coach Griffith for practice. However, these men were, for the most part, inexperienced underclassmen. The nucleus of the championship team of 1909 had graduated. Consequently, the won and lost record of the 1910 team was three games won and five games lost.

When Drake lost to the Des Moines Baptist team, 6-5, in the first game of the season, it was evident that the 1910 aggregation was not as strong as its immediate predecessor. Illinois University then downed the Bulldogs, 29-0. This was



the first meeting between the two schools. Drake continued her mastery over Coe, 22-0, but was unable to score against the powerful Jayhawks from Kansas University. Although the battling Bulldogs stopped Kansas University on four touchdown drives within her own five yard line, the Kansas weight advantage finally paid dividends and she was able to push across a touchdown in the closing moments of the hard fought contest. Even then, Drake came fighting back and had the ball on the Kansas one foot line when the game ended.

Even though the team was not all victorious, Drake spirit was very high during 1910. Five hundred students witnessed the Thursday practice session preceeding the Simpson game which the Bulldogs won, 3-0. After the Kansas University vs. Drake game, J. C. Maskers, one of the officials, made the following statement concerning the "Drake Spirit."

I have never worked in Des Moines before, but the group of fellows in that game were the greatest I ever worked with. I never saw as clean a game and never witnessed a student demonstration like the one this afternoon even though Drake faced certain defeat.<sup>1</sup>

After getting by old state rival Grinnell, 13-9, Drake was eliminated as a possible state champion by a very powerful Iowa University team, 21-0. Iowa had one of her strongest teams in 1910 and finished second to Nebraska University in the Missouri Valley standings. She was easily champion of

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 29, 1910, Vol. 29, p. 4.

Iowa. As they sat in the Drake auditorium, Drake students, not able to go to Iowa City, received a telegraphic play by play description of the game. This was Drake's last game with Iowa University until 1941.

Drake and Iowa State were very evenly matched on Thanksgiving Day. As a result of a safety, Iowa State finally won the game, 2-0. That defeat was Drake's third conference loss, and she finished last.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the season was the splendid kicking by Drake's William Burcham, who emerged as one of Drake's alltime great drop kickers and punters.

The 1911 football season was one of much success. Most noteworthy was the splendid five games won, two lost and one tied record of the fighting Bulldogs under Coach Griffith. Defensively, Drake was a very strong ball club. Throughout the season, only twenty-nine points were scored against the Blue and White. Only Kansas University was able to score as many as two touchdowns in a single game. In the meantime, the powerful and very versatile Drake offense rolled up 165 points against her opponents.

It has been mentioned earlier that during the first decade of the twentieth century, Drake school spirit was one of great renown. Much of that spirit was a result of the generally powerful football teams which represented the school. It was the policy of Drake football coaches to urge anyone who desired to come out for the teams. The following excerpt



from the 1911 Delphic is typical of the early season solicitation for more students to play the game.

It is the policy of the Athletic Department at Drake to make athletics the sport of the entire student body, rather than the business of a few trained players. Every man of you is urged by the coaches to get into a suit and get onto the practice field. Most of you will not make the varsity the first year, but everyone will get an<sup>1</sup> experience and a discipline that will prove invaluable.

The 1911 team devised and adopted their own training rules. The following rules were rigidly adhered to and enforced: The Drake football player was not to eat between meals. Smoking or drinking alcoholic beverages was definitely forbidden. He was to be in bed by ten o'clock on week days and eleven-thirty o'clock on Saturdays. He was not to attend such social gatherings as dances and the like until the season was over.

After defeating Parsons, 23-0, Coach Griffith cut his varsity squad to eighteen men and the Bulldogs prepared to make their bid for the state championship and first place in the Missouri Valley Conference. That appearance, on the Drake schedule, was the first for Parsons. Des Moines College was the next opponent to feel the Drake might. Roy Havens, who was a Bulldog end on the 1909 team, coached the Baptists, who went down, 29-0. Coe proved no match for the hard running Drake team and was defeated, 65-6. Glenn Simons, the

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, September 18, 1911, Vol. 30, p. 3.



great Drake punter of 1911, ran a Coe kickoff 105 yards for a touchdown. No other Drake man had performed such a feat.

Drake's first Missouri Valley game was played in Lawrence, Kansas. Two thousand five hundred football fans watched the Kansas Jayhawks defeat Drake for the second time in as many years. A special train of one hundred students accompanied the team to Kansas University and saw the Blue and White sustain an 11-3 defeat.

A student pep group called the "Fighting Fifty" was very instrumental in generating student backing for the team. Preceding the Kansas University game, Plato Redfern, one of Drake's all-time great cheerleaders, led the "Fighting Fifty" and other loyal Drake followers in a parade through the streets of Lawrence. During the week of the game, a huge electric sign saying, "Beat Kansas," was displayed high on the Drake observatory.

Grinnell proved to be a strong opponent for the Bulldogs and held Drake to a narrow 6-0 victory. The game was played on a frozen field with a bitter cold wind hampering the players. Punting dominated the play for both sides. Drake punted eighteen times for 610 yards. Grinnell punted twenty-seven times for 835 yards.

The season progressed to the last game against Iowa State. As often in past years, this final game for both teams was to decide the state championship of Iowa. Student enthusiasm on the Drake campus and around University Place



ran high. The watchword was "Wallop Ames." Even though these two teams were long time rivals in many activities, the relationship was one of friendliness. The Delphic made the following statement:

For years, the Iowa State vs. Drake game has been looked forward to by friends of the two schools as the big event of the year. There have always been the best of relations between the two schools. Unlike the Ames vs. Nebraska game, the coming meeting will not be marred by suspicions of scouting at the practice of the teams. An agreement was made by Coach Williams and Coach Griffith that there should be no representatives sent to either the games or the practices of the teams.<sup>1</sup>

The game was played on Saturday instead of on Thanksgiving Day. Because of the great interest throughout the city, Mayor Hanna issued a proclamation urging all business to close from 2:00 p. m. until 5:00 p. m. on the afternoon of the game. Many businesses throughout the city complied.

Iowa State, dominating the play in every department but the punting, managed to eke out a 6-0 victory and take the state championship. The most spectacular plays of the game were two punts by Simons of Drake. One traveled seventy-nine yards and the other seventy-five.

As a result of their excellent playing in the 1911 season, three Bulldogs gained positions on post season honorary teams. Captain George McCreight was chosen as a member

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November 24, 1911, Vol. 30, p. 4.



of the All-Iowa team at an end position. Charlie Reeves at guard and Glen Simons at halfback also were chosen on the All-Iowa team. Simons and Reeves were also selected on the All-Missouri Valley Conference team.

Early indications foretold a successful 1912 football season for Coach John L. Griffith and his Drake Bulldogs. Sixty men responded to the early September call for the football players. The Delphic expressed a feeling of optimism which permeated throughout the student body.

We should make a definite bid for the championship. There will be keen competition for positions on the team. Especially in the backfield where there are three or four men for each position. This situation is a healthy one.<sup>1</sup>

Parsons College felt the might of the Bulldogs in the first game of the season. Drake set an all-time scoring record in this game by defeating Parsons, 96-0. This score gave an indication of what was to come for the next four Drake opponents. Drake defeated the Drake Alumni, 21-7, and Simpson, 28-0. Two Missouri Valley Conference opponents crumbled before the Bulldog's speed and power. Kansas University went down, 6-0, and Washington of St. Louis fell, 33-13. When one thousand six hundred people attended the contest, a new attendance record was established in the Drake vs. Kansas University game. That was a new attendance record for a game with an out-of-state team.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, September 19, 1912, Vol. 31, p. 5.



While she was winning in her first five games, injuries to several key men took place, and this ultimately aided heavily in future defeats at the hands of old rivals, Grinnell, Iowa State and Missouri University. Because of injuries sustained in previous games, six of Drake's starting eleven, Glenn Simons, halfback, Horace Bunz, halfback, Henry McHenry, fullback, Iowa Welsh, end, Volney Diltz, guard, and Mayo Colville, center, were unable to play.

Grinnell's 13-0 victory was her first win over the Bulldogs in five years. Grinnell presented an assortment of shift plays that confused the Drake defense and were greatly responsible for the Grinnell Hoodoo's coming back to life. Drake lost to the strong Missouri University team, 17-14, for her first conference defeat.

Even though in a badly crippled condition, Drake was determined to make an all out effort to defeat the Iowa State Cyclones, who once again had a powerful team. The Bulldogs held secret practices during the week preceeding the game. On the night before the game, the squad spent the night in the solitude and quietness of the Des Moines Golf and Country Club. Despite these preparations, Drake proved no match for the Cyclones and tasted another bitter defeat from her always strong neighbor. Only a thirty-nine yard drop kick enabled the Bulldogs to salvage three points in the 23-3 defeat.

Thus, Drake finished the season with five victories and

three defeats. Her Missouri Valley Conference record was two wins and two losses. This enabled her to finish third in the race. Her defeats at the hands of Grinnell and Iowa State placed her in last position in the state championship race.

Mayo Colville was chosen on the All-Iowa and All-Missouri Valley Conference teams at center. Christy McCormick made the All-Iowa team at tackle.

It is interesting to note that in 1912 smoking in the bleachers at the games was frowned upon, especially by the ladies. In a statement endorsed by girls in the girls' dormitory, the following condition was declared to have been in existence. "On last Saturday, the girls section was north of that occupied by the boys; the wind was in the south and at times the air was so full of tobacco smoke that it was difficult to breathe."<sup>1</sup> Despite the disagreeable smoke and other hardships which were present at the football games, the Drake girls remained very loyal to the team and displayed this loyalty with their presence at the games. Little respect was displayed for the boys who did not attend the games. At least this is the impression one gathers from this statement by the Drake Girls Organizations found in the November 16 issue of the Drake Delphic.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November 15, 1912, Vol. 31, p. 5.



The Drake Girls believe that the men in the University have "laid down." We therefore do not hesitate to call you quitters. If you are not, where were you when the game was being played? You brought defeat on our team. (Grinnell game) The men who stood on the street corners and knocked the team after the game are no credit to this school . . . . It is a deplorable condition indeed when the men of an institution are so lacking in loyalty that they were outclassed by the girls, but that condition exists in Drake today.<sup>1</sup>

The 1912 season was one of important rule changes. The playing field was shortened to 100 yards. To permit more passing, ten yard end zones were added. Four downs instead of three were allowed for a first down. The touchdown counted six points instead of five.

When Coach John L. Griffith met the Bulldog squad in the fall of 1913, he was beginning his sixth year at the Drake helm. Captain Harold Lansing, Mayo Colville, Iowa Welsh and Archie Sanders were the only 1912 regular players who had graduated and the outlook for the season was once again one of optimism. Captain Glenn Simons, Drake's All-Missouri Valley halfback, led the Bulldogs to a four won, three lost and one tied record.

When the Drake team had little trouble in disposing of Central, 24-0, in the opening game of the season, the optimism produced by early season practices seemed to be justified. However, Coe, who had seldom given the Drake team trouble in the past, proved to be a quick, powerful team. Drake felt

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November 16, 1912, Vol. 31, p. 4.



fortunate to gain a 0-0 tie with them. In commenting on the game, the 1915 Quax expressed the sentiment of Drake followers concerning the closely matched contest.

In the Coe game, we had plenty of chances for nervousness . . . . The fast Coe backs sifted through the line on many occasions and gave us heart failure more than once.<sup>1</sup>

Drake football fortunes rose when it was learned that Captain Simons, who had missed the opening games because of old injuries, would be available for service in the Grinnell game. Drake stopped the Grinnell team with a 20-0 victory.

Drake found Missouri Valley Conference teams difficult to beat in 1913. Only Washington of St. Louis was defeated by the Bulldogs. The 32-17 victory over the Bears was the second victory for Drake in three meetings with the St. Louis team. Other Valley teams proved too strong for Drake. In hard fought ball games, Kansas University defeated Drake, 11-0, and Missouri University was victorious by a 10-0 score.

The Drake vs. Iowa State game was by this time a traditional battle. Previous seasons' records meant very little in this game. If the season was going to be classified as a success, a victory in this game was a necessity. Most of the previous games had been very closely contested and always tenaciously played. The 1913 game proved no exception to the

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<sup>1</sup>Quax, 1915, Vol. 14 (Des Moines, Iowa; Drake University, 1915) pp. 209-215.



rule. However, the score was not too close. Iowa State won, 26-3. With the exception of the 11-0 victory in 1909, Drake had not defeated the Cyclones since 1901. "Never did any team work harder for a game than did Drake for the 1913 Iowa State game."<sup>1</sup>

The preceeding statement from the 1915 Drake Quax seemed to express the importance of the Drake vs. Iowa State game. Drake's one victory and three defeats gave her fifth place in the Missouri Valley Conference title race.

Eleven Drake lettermen finished their football playing for Drake at the close of the 1913 season. This was an unusually large number of men to lose from a squad during that era of Drake football.

Of the forty-two men who answered Coach Griffith's September, 1914, call for varsity football practice, only three were lettermen from the 1913 squad. Yet the Bulldogs managed to finish the season with a respectable four won, three lost and one tied record. This identical to the 1913 season record. Drake students had the privilege of seeing seven of the eight games at Drake stadium.

As usual, Drake surged forward with a winning start. In strong fashion, Leander Clarke, 19-0, Central, 51-0, and Grinnell, 20-7, were defeated by the Blue and White. Drake

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid, p. 210.



was held scoreless in the first quarter by Central, but came back with fifty-one points in the last three. The Grinnell game was the twentieth between the two schools. The 1914 victory gave the Bulldogs a thirteen to seven winning margin in the series.

Bulldog hopes of a high rating in the Missouri Valley Conference were destroyed by Kansas. Outweighing the Bulldogs approximately twenty-five pounds to the man, the powerful Jayhawks humbled the Bulldogs, 32-7. In her only out-of-town game, Drake battled the strong Washington of St. Louis team to a 7-7 tie. Washington had a team of veteran lettermen and had, in two previous games, scored a total of 120 points. As the team departed for St. Louis, Drake students showed their loyalty to the team by holding a 6:30 a. m. pep meeting at the depot.

Drake's third Missouri Valley Conference opponent had little difficulty in handing the Bulldogs their second one-sided defeat, a 32-6 beating. In a non-conference game with Iowa Teachers, Drake met little opposition. The score was only 14-3 in Drake's favor. This was a result of the Bulldogs playing their first team only a few minutes of the game.

In her homecoming and final game of the season, Drake met the powerful team from Iowa State. The odds were heavily in favor of Iowa State. In commenting on the coming game, the Drake Delphic was pessimistic about the outcome of the



game but ever loyal to the team.

Unless the unexpected happens, Drake's prospects for a victory tomorrow are very small. Most of the Drake team are new and inexperienced men . . . . Whatever way the score may go, Drake people can rest assured that the team that will fight for them tomorrow will be up to standard in sportsmanship, in courage, and in all that really counts.<sup>1</sup>

The Delphic's prediction proved very true. Drake was overwhelmed by a 52-0 score. This was the worst defeat that Drake had ever suffered at the hands of Iowa State. The defeat gave Drake a record of no wins, three losses and one tie in Missouri Valley play.

It is interesting to note the weights of the players who comprised the Bulldog team in 1914. That year, Drake fielded a team which was representative in weight to the average Drake team of the 1900 to 1920 era. The following players are representative of the squad: Volney Diltz, tackle, 170 pounds; James Blackburn, fullback, 160 pounds; Max Ruffcorn, guard, 185 pounds; Paul Hewitt, center, 170 pounds; Ralph Warnock, tackle, 182 pounds; Edward Hansen, guard, 195 pounds; Harold McCoy, end, 155 pounds; Scott Hernegan, fullback, 155 pounds; Harry Shearer, halfback, 145 pounds; Okla Smith, end, 167 pounds; Gregory Brunk, tackle, 175 pounds.

Iowa University, having dropped Drake from its

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November 15, 1914, Vol. 33, p. 4.



schedule in 1910, considered playing Drake again. She considered Drake a minor college. The following statement printed in the Iowa Daily Press and later quoted in the Drake Delphic sheds some light upon the reputation that Drake football enjoyed at the State University of Iowa:

The fact that Cornell will be advanced a few paces on the schedule will leave room for a strong minor college team in the second place. It is felt here that Drake would be an ideal opponent for this spot if the Blue and White can be induced to take it. However, Drake still feels that she is entitled to big college consideration, although her teams have been deplorably weak of late years and are going from bad to worse now.<sup>1</sup>

The 1915 football season was the last year in which John L. Griffith served as head football coach. In losing six of her eight games, Drake set a record for the number of games lost in one season. From the standpoint of winning games, the 1915 season was the worst season in the eight years which Griffith coached the team.

A large squad of players greeted Coach Griffith on the first practice day. Among this squad was a record number of freshmen. Forty comprised the freshman team. Of the large group of varsity aspirants, only five men were returning veterans from the 1914 team.

When the Bulldogs opened the season against powerful Nebraska University, who later went on to win the Missouri Valley Conference championship, the losing pattern was initiated

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 21, 1914, Vol. 33, p. 6.



in the first game of the season. Drake felt the might of the Cornhuskers in a crushing 48-13 defeat. Any hopes that Bulldog followers had of a great team in 1915 were very rudely dispelled. In a game designated as the "stadium fund game," Highland Park upset the Drake men, 16-13. Proceeds of the game went to a fund for putting a brick fence around the stadium. In commenting on the game, the Delphic expressed the sentiment of the student body when she spoke of the defeat as an "unexpected disgrace."<sup>1</sup> The only bright spot in the game for Drake was a seventy yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Drake's Okla Smith.

The Bulldogs lost their second conference game to the heavy Kansas Jayhawks by a 30-7 score. These three straight losses caused much optimism among Simpson followers in regard to her game with Drake. However, Drake rose to the occasion and stopped the Redmen by a 45-3 score. Drake scored in the first four minutes of the game and Simpson was never close to the Bulldogs from that time until the final whistle.

Drake fortunes appeared to be on the rise when Drake came from a 9-0 half time deficit to defeat the Washington ball club, 26-16. This game was Drake's first and only victory in the conference. With much optimism, Drake students, on the strength of the two previous victories, looked forward

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 9, 1915, Vol. 34, p. 4.



to the coming Grinnell game. As Drake spirit reached its zenith of the 1915 season, elaborate student preparations were made for the game. A dummy corpse, representing Grinnell, was placed in front of the Drake Administration building. After an elaborate mock funeral, a large procession escorted the corpse to the Walnut street bridge, where it was lowered to its final resting place at the bottom of the Des Moines River. Despite this display of student confidence, the Bulldogs proved no match for the representatives of the Scarlet and Black. Grinnell proceeded to thrash the Drake team, 58-0. This defeat was the worst that Drake had thus far sustained at the hands of Grinnell.

Morale, after the Grinnell defeat, reached an all-time low at Drake University. There was a general feeling that several of the Bulldogs did not play up to their capabilities. No pep meetings were held prior to the Missouri University game, and no students saw the boys off for the game at the train depot. In an attempt to revive team spirit, Coach Griffith promoted several second team men to starting positions. Despite these efforts to win the game, the Bulldogs were defeated by Missouri University, 41-13. Missouri scored two touchdowns in the first ten minutes of the game, and from then on there was no doubt as to the ultimate victor.

The Thanksgiving Day game against Iowa State held



little promise for a Drake victory. The Cyclones had beaten Iowa University the previous week. Judging from the season's performances, Iowa State definitely appeared to be much the stronger team. The Cyclones did prove to be the better team, but only after a hard fought game. The 28-14 Iowa State victory gave her just claim to the state championship and left Drake last among the state's "Big Four." This was Drake's third conference defeat against one victory and gave her sixth place in the conference race.

Drake coached by Ralph Glaze. Ralph Glaze assumed the head football coaching duties at Drake University in 1916. He was assisted by Lieutenant Weir, former West Point star. The Bulldogs won three games and lost five during their first year under the tutelage of Coach Glaze.

From the standpoint of winning games, the year was not particularly successful, but the student spirit was very high. This spirit was largely a result of the Drake Men's Union which the Delphic described as "existing for the purpose of arousing student enthusiasm in regard to athletics."<sup>1</sup>

The 1916 team had few returning lettermen from the 1915 team. Consequently, Coach Glaze was forced to devote many hours to fundamental work with the "green" men. It was

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 21, 1916, Vol. 35, p. 5.



not unusual for practice sessions to last three hours.

By defeating Penn College, 7-2, Drake started her twenty-third football season in winning fashion. The Penn game was a desperate struggle and Drake could not have won had she not put forth an all-out effort to stop the Penn men on her own two yard line. Winning ways did not long exist for the Bulldogs. Nebraska University, the defending Missouri Valley champion, was too big and powerful for the fighting Bulldogs. Outweighed and outmanned, Drake lost, 53-0. Long runs by the fast Nebraska University backs featured the game. Although fairly evenly matched in size, the Bulldogs continued their mastery over Washington, 13-0.

Drake played Northwestern University for the first time in 1916. Preceding the game, members of the Drake Chicago Alumni Organization provided a large banquet for the team. Drake had not played a member of the Big Ten since her 1910 game with Iowa University, in which she was defeated, 21-0. The Bulldogs from Drake proved no challenge to the Wildcats of Northwestern University and were humbled, 40-6. The forward pass was displayed as an important offensive weapon by the Bulldogs in this game. Drake completed eight of nine passing attempts.

By defeating Drake, 21-0, Grinnell vindicated those who picked her as the pre-game favorite. Simpson, considering Drake's so-so record, was confident of a victory over the



Des Moines School. In quoting the Simpsonian, the following statement concerning the game appeared in the Drake Delphic: "The Redmen are optimistic about Saturday's game. They regard the battle the biggest one on their schedule. They would rather win from Drake than any other school they play."<sup>1</sup> The Simpson ball team was unable to justify the optimism of its student body and was beaten, 32-0.

Drake's final two games were with the conference rivals, Missouri University and Iowa State. Missouri, which went on to second place in the conference, stopped the Bulldogs, 14-0. Drake continued to depend primarily on passing for gaining yardage. Game statistics revealed that Missouri University gained 313 yards by rushing and nothing through the air. On the other hand, Drake gained only fifty-five yards by rushing and ninety-five by passing.

Iowa State, on Thanksgiving Day, handed Drake her third conference defeat, 33-14. In this game, Rus Sprong called the offensive plays and Okla Smith called the cadence at the line of scrimmage. According to the Delphic, "This was the first time that any team had ever attempted this system of signal calling under game conditions."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November 10, 1916, Vol. 35, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Delphic, November 30, 1916, Vol. 35, p. 4.



Drake finished the season with a conference record of one win and three losses for sixth place in the conference. Her defeats at the hands of Iowa State and Grinnell placed her last among the "Big Four" of Iowa. Rus Sprong was chosen at center on both the All-Missouri Valley and the All-Iowa teams. Drake captain, Okla Smith, was chosen All-Iowa fullback.

Athletic Director, John L. Griffith, compiled a financial statement concerning the profit and loss of every game that Drake had played from 1905 through 1916. In commenting on this statement, Griffith says:

The table shows that football fans attend games either because of their interest in one or the other of the teams, or because they believe a close battle will result. Where neither attraction is present, a loss in gate receipts is present . . . . Figures show that financially the school's policy of playing larger schools outside the state instead of smaller state schools is sound. Games with Coe, Cornell, Morningside and Simpson have resulted in a large deficit at the gate. While on the other hand, games with Missouri Valley Conference schools and the large Iowa schools have proved good money games . . . . The Drake vs. Iowa University game always drew well at the Drake Stadium, but was not successful financially when held in Iowa City . . . . Year in and year out the Drake vs. Iowa State game is the most successful financially. The 1909 Drake vs. Iowa State championship game set a stadium record with each team clearing \$2,648.00.<sup>1</sup>

Ralph Glaze inherited the unenviable opportunity of being Drake's first war-time football coach. Only eighteen students reported for varsity football practice at the initial

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, December 13, 1916, Vol. 35, p. 3.



meeting of the 1917 season. Few veteran players were available for the 1917 season. Most of the 1916 team had enlisted in the United States Army. Consequently, the small group of Bulldogs who greeted Coach Glaze and his assistant, Dr. S. W. Hobbs, was very inexperienced and not especially talented.

George Neel captained the 1917 Bulldogs, who finished the season with a record of no games won, five lost, and two tied. Not since her first year of football, 1893, had the Bulldogs failed to register a victory in an entire season.

War-time travel restrictions caused the Bulldogs to confine their games to teams within a few hundred miles radius. In the seven game schedule, only Creighton, Washington and Missouri were out-of-state schools.

Penn College, who throughout an eleven game relationship with the Bulldogs was able to win only two games, came very close to gaining her first victory. However, at the conclusion of a closely contested game, the score was tied, 7-7. Creighton appeared on the Drake schedule for the first time since her 21-11 victory in 1907. Once again the Bluejays gained a well deserved 12-3 victory over the Blue and White.

Missouri defeated the Bulldogs for the seventh consecutive time. The inexperienced and outweighed Drake squad was not able to contest the Missouri team and were humbled, 49-0. Grinnell continued to dominate the Bulldogs and rolled to a 25-7 victory. Grinnell had won games in 1915 and 1916.



Washington, which had not beaten the Bulldogs since 1911, defeated the Bulldogs, 20-0. In five games, thus far in the season, Drake had scored only seventeen points. Drake and old rival, Simpson, battled to a 7-7 deadlock. Drake's last Missouri Valley Conference rival, Iowa State, had little difficulty in disposing of the Bulldogs by a 47-0 score.

With a conference record of 0-3-0, the Bulldogs finished seventh in the conference standings.

Drake coached by Mark Beal Banks. Mark Beal Banks assumed the duties of head football coach at Drake University in 1918. Harry Bell served as assistant coach. Only five games were played by the Bulldogs during that year. Because of United States Government restrictions on travel, games with out-of-state teams were canceled. Washington was the only out-of-state team played.

Paul Holliday was the only returning veteran from the 1917 team. Other members of the 1917 team had either graduated or were serving in the armed forces. Despite the lack of upper classmen on the Drake campus, about fifty candidates met Coach Banks at the first practice. These boys were freshmen who had been ruled eligible by the Missouri Valley Conference so that Drake could field a team. Since the Drake team was composed primarily of freshmen, it was a relatively light team.



The team started practice without a captain. Only "D" men were eligible to vote for captain. Since there were no lettermen on the squad, no captain was elected. Paul Holliday, being the only man with college experience, was appointed acting captain and was later elected to the captaincy.

As far as football was concerned, 1918 was a year dominated by uncertainty and inconvenience in many ways. Games were scheduled and then canceled for various reasons such as government travel restrictions and quarantines of all college students in certain schools because of the flu epidemic. Because of the army unit on the campus, Drake could practice her football team only an hour a day.

Because Penn did not have enough men to play, the Drake vs. Penn game was canceled. It was not until the last week in October that the Bulldogs were able to play a game. In their first game, they defeated Des Moines University, 35-7. It was in the Grinnell game, which followed, that disaster struck. That disaster came in the form of a 71-0 loss at the hands of the Scarlet and Black. This was the 24th annual meeting of the two schools, and the result was the most one-sided in the long series. Until this year, Grinnell's most convincing victory had been the 58-0 score in the 1915 game. The 1918 victory was the fourth in a row for Grinnell. Although Grinnell, like Drake, had only one returning veteran from their 1917 team, the Bulldogs were never in a position to



challenge throughout the game. Grinnell scored two touchdowns in the first six minutes of the game and were never in danger from then until the final whistle.

Drake made her only trip of any length when she traveled to St. Louis for a game with Washington University. After holding the powerful Bears scoreless for three quarters, the light Drake line could contain the Washington University forward wall no longer and gave up twenty-six points in the final quarter. Drake failed to cross the Washington goal.

The Bulldogs met Simpson in the fourth game of the season. Simpson fielded a heavy team in 1918 and was the favorite to win the game. However, Drake's light, fast team failed to succumb to the strong Simpson line and went on to a 13-6 upset victory. The game with Iowa State was canceled because of the flu quarantine and Drake finished her season with a 35-7 victory over Fort Des Moines.

Because of the travel restrictions, Missouri Valley Conference teams were unable to play a representative schedule and no standings were declared.



### CHAPTER III

#### DRAKE'S GOLDEN ERA

World War I was over and college life at Drake resumed its pre-war pattern. Thirty eligible men reported to Coach Banks in early September, 1919. Seven games were played with Drake winning four and losing three. Several pre-war players returned to the Drake campus and to the football scene. Among those returning veterans was the 1917 captain, Russell Sprong, who had been drafted into the army before he had a chance to begin the 1917 season. Sprong, All-Missouri Valley center in 1916, was chosen to lead the Bulldogs in 1919.

Both Penn and Simpson were defeated by the Bulldogs. Penn fell, 33-0, and Simpson was defeated in a close game, 12-10. Simpson once again failed in her quest for her first victory, against the Drake team. The 7-7 tie in 1917 was the closest she had come to defeating Drake.

Twenty-five players journeyed to Columbia, Missouri, for Drake's first post-war Missouri Valley Conference football game. This was the largest traveling squad that Drake had ever taken on an out-of-state trip. The Bulldogs put forth a tremendous effort, but were defeated by a 3-0 score. On three different occasions, the Bulldogs held the Tigers on the Drake three yard line. Late in the game, a thirty-five yard drop kick for three Missouri points spelled doom for Bulldog hopes.



Missouri played twenty-seven men against the Drake team.

Grinnell joined the Missouri Valley Conference in 1919. Drake promptly shattered the old "Grinnell Hoodoo" and defeated their old rivals by a 6-0 score. During the first five minutes, Don Shawver, Drake's left halfback, considered the fastest back in the Valley, scored the only touchdown in the game.

Drake school spirit was gradually assuming the prominent roll in the lives of the student body that it had played throughout the pre-war years. The football future was beginning to look good for Drake. On the freshmen squad were ten all-state football players, who before they were graduated were to contribute to one of Drake's most successful football eras. After the Grinnell victory, the Drake Delphic commented:

The war is now over and the team has come back a winning team. With it has come back a loyal band of rooters such as has not been seen in the Stadium since the days before the war.<sup>1</sup>

In her third Missouri Valley Conference game, Drake defeated Washington University, 14-13. The Bears were the pre-season favorites to win the conference title. Washington's line was the heaviest in the Valley. In a non-conference game, Drake met the University of South Dakota. The game was played under extremely adverse conditions. A heavy snow had recently

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November 4, 1919, Vol. 38, p. 5.



melted leaving water standing on the field. The ground had thawed two inches leaving the field a sea of mud and water. Drake's only score was a field goal which fell short of the touchdown made by South Dakota. Thus, Drake lost her second game by a close score.

The Drake vs. Iowa State game decided second place in the conference. Before six thousand fans, Iowa State won, 14-0. This was Drake's second conference defeat against two wins. Drake place third in the standings.

Three Bulldogs were honored as members of the All-Valley team. Rus Sprong was picked as All-Valley center for the second time. Ward Hornaday was chosen as tackle and Don Shawver was picked for right halfback on the All-Valley team.

Dr. Arthur Holmes, president of the University and a strong advocate of collegiate athletics wrote a congratulatory letter to the Bulldog squad. After commending the squad on their respectable record, fine spirit and clean play, the President expressed his thanks for their contribution to the University.

All of these things you have done and for all of these things, all of us, student body, alumni, trustees, and friends of Drake, most sincerely thank every man of you for putting into every<sup>1</sup> game the very last ounce of mettle and battle within him.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, December 5, 1919, Vol. 38, p. 4.



Thirty-five candidates, including eight lettermen, answered the first call for football players in 1920. This was the last year for the Bulldogs under the leadership of M. B. Banks. Coach Banks was assisted by former Drake stars, Iowa Welsh and Rus Sprong. "The men reported for the first practice in excellent condition; and, at the very outset, it appeared that Drake would come through its schedule with a clean slate,"<sup>1</sup> stated the Drake Quax of 1922. The Bulldogs did not wade right through their opponents, however. At the end of the season, they had a record of four victories, five defeats and one tie. For the first time in history, Drake played a ten game schedule. This schedule included five Missouri Valley Conference games. Injuries to key personnel played an important part in the mediocre showing of the pre-season highly touted squad.

Drake registered smashing victories in her first two games. On successive Saturdays, she defeated first Penn, 54-0, and then Simpson, 66-0. The Quax terms the Penn game "just a practice game."<sup>2</sup> Preceding the Illinois game at Champaign, student spirit ran high on the Drake campus. Drake followers felt that the Bulldogs had an excellent chance to defeat the Illini. However, the many Drake rooters who

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<sup>1</sup>Quax, 1922, Vol. 21 (Des Moines, Iowa: Drake University, 1922), pp. 75-80.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 76.



accompanied the team to the game were sadly disappointed. The game had progressed only a few minutes when ill fortune struck the Drake team. Drake's two best backs, Don Shawver and Joyce Allen were both injured and did not play the rest of the game. With Drake's offensive punch on the sidelines, the Bulldogs were easy prey for the Illini and were defeated, 41-0. With the exception of Iowa University, Drake had still not claimed a victory over a Big Ten opponent. Shawver, Drake's All-Valley halfback, was out of the lineup for the rest of the season.

Within the next four weeks, the Bulldogs met four Valley opponents. Kansas University handed the men from Drake their first conference defeat by a 7-3 score. Drake's only score came on a fifty-five yard drop kick by Brindley. Drake's second conference defeat came at the hands of Missouri University. Throughout the first three quarters, the game was a desperate struggle, which ended in a 7-7 tie. The game would have ended with the same score but Missouri's Lewis drop kicked a forty yard field goal which gave the Wildcats a 10-7 victory. For the second straight year, Missouri had defeated Drake by a three point margin.

In the Drake homecoming game, Grinnell, continuing to be very difficult for the Bulldogs, fought Drake to a 6-6 tie. Both scores were the result of completed passes. Washington University's Pikers provided Drake with her only conference



win when they went down to a 14-6 defeat at the hands of the Bulldogs.

Drake's next two games were with non-conference foes. In a closely contested game, the Bulldogs defeated Creighton, 7-0. Coach Banks used most of the traveling squad in this game. This possibly accounts for the close score. Morningside provided a game of a different nature from the Creighton contest. Although Drake gained three times as much yardage as the Morningside team, she was beaten, 14-6. Drake's pass defense crumbled in the last quarter and Morningside completed two passes for touchdowns and a victory.

The University of Oklahoma appeared on the Drake schedule for the first time in 1920. The powerful Sooners occupied the Thanksgiving Day date which Iowa State had previously occupied for several years. Iowa State did not play the Bulldogs in 1920. The Sooners needed a victory in the Drake game to win an undisputed Missouri Valley championship. Unable to penetrate the Drake line, Oklahoma took to the air and found a glaring weakness in the Drake defense. Oklahoma exploited this weakness to roll up a 44-7 victory.

Trescott Long was chosen at end on the All-Valley team. Drake placed fifth in the Conference. Her record was one win, three losses and one tie.

At the end of the 1920-21 school year, Coach Banks



resigned to accept the position of head football coach at the University of Tennessee.

Drake coached by Oscar M. Solem. With the coming of the 1921 football season, Oscar M. Solem arrived on the scene as head football coach of the Drake Bulldogs. During this first year and the ten years that followed, Coach Solem proved to be one of Drake's most successful coaches. During the 1921 season, Coach Solem was assisted by Iowa Welch and Christie McCormick. The Bulldogs welcomed the new coach by completing a very successful season in which they won five games and lost two. Both Drake losses were to teams in the Valley.

The 1921 squad assembled on the Drake practice field September 8. Because of the Missouri Valley Conference ruling, Coach Solem could not begin work with the boys until September 15. Consequently, the team was under the supervision of team captain, Trescott Long, the first Drake football player to win a "D" sweater with four stripes, during the first week of practice. Only thirty-five eligible candidates turned out for practice.

In a resume of the 1921 season found in the Drake Quax, Ray Smith aptly termed the article "The 1921 Season . . . .



A Study in Casualties."<sup>1</sup> Injuries to key players began to play havoc with the Bulldog eleven early in the season. In the season's opener, Drake routed Penn, 42-0, but, as a result of injuries, lost first team fullback, Harold "Apie" Blanchard and halfback, Joyce Allen for the rest of the season.

Coach Solem was forced to revise his backfield for the game with Kansas University. With Bill Boelter and Art Peisen at halfbacks and Ike Armstrong at fullback, the Bulldogs scored a stunning 15-7 defeat over the powerful Jayhawks. Drake's points resulted from two touchdown passes and a safety. Smith commented: "It was here that the Bulldogs gained a name as a forward passing team, and from this time on were feared by every team in the Valley."<sup>2</sup>

Cornell was next to feel the might of the fast stepping Bulldogs. Drake had little difficulty in compiling a 41-0 victory. Cornell did not score a first down until Coach Solem substituted his second team in the fourth quarter. It was in this game that sophomore Bill Boelter laid the foundation for his reputation as one of Drake's all-time great halfbacks.

Repeatedly, the Idaho lad sped down the field with the pigskin tucked safely under his arm, and a half dozen

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<sup>1</sup>Quax, 1921, Vol. 20 (Des Moines, Iowa: Drake University, 1921), pp. 123 - 130.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 126.



Cornellians sprawled on the turf, victims of Bill's deadly stiff arm.<sup>1</sup>

As compared to those of later years, Drake's traveling squad of 1921 was still relatively small. Only twenty-two men made the trip to the University of Missouri. Bulldog hopes for a Valley championship rested on the outcome of this game. Those hopes were crushed, when on a field of soft mud, the Tigers ground out a 6-0 victory.

In his account of the season, Smith gave the following account of how the Missouri team scored its only touchdown.

Niggemeyer, Bulldog quarterback, placed the oval on a little mound of mud and prepared to kick. He did kick. It was a great kick with a lot of distance on it. It fell into the hands of the demon Lewis. A dull thud and the pigskin once more went sailing in the air, but this time it was from the toe of Lewis.

The Drake team, with the exception of Niggemeyer as safety man, had rushed down the field toward the Missouri goal. As soon as Lewis had received the ball, two Tigers had advanced in the direction of Niggemeyer. When Lewis kicked, Kerschaw, Tiger backfield man, was onside. The two men who charged at Niggemeyer got their man.

The ball fell in the open field and was scooped up by the onrushing Kerschaw, who carried it across the goal for the only points of the game. All this happened in exactly fifty seconds.<sup>2</sup>

Iowa State once again returned to the Drake schedule. Playing before a large Drake homecoming crowd, the two teams

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 127.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 128.



battled to a 0-0 half time score. However, the rugged first half had taken its toll upon the Bulldogs. Because of injuries, both Bulldog halfbacks, Bill Boelter and Bob Peisen, were unable to compete in the second half. With her offense crippled, Drake was unable to cross the Iowa State goal. Iowa State intercepted a Drake pass in the late stages of the game and scored the game's only touchdown.

Drake was behind 10-0 at half time against non-conference foe Morningside. However, the Bulldogs roared back in the second half to score three touchdowns for a 20-10 triumph. Grinnell, using a peculiar offense called the "consultation circle" which involved multiple shifts at the line of scrimmage, also had Drake down 10-0 at the half. It was not until the middle of the fourth quarter that Drake gained the scoring column. Bill Boelter, although still handicapped by the injury sustained in the Iowa State game, entered the fray during the fourth quarter and promptly completed four of five passes. Three of these passes were caught for touchdowns. Thus, within a space of five minutes, the Bulldogs gained a 21-10 victory.

Drake finished the 1921 season with two wins and two losses in the Missouri Valley. She tied with Kansas University for fourth place. In Missouri Valley play, Drake scored thirty-six points to her opponents thirty-three. In the overall season play, Drake scored 139 points to her opponents



forty. No team scored more than ten points on the Bulldogs in any one game. Three team members gained notable mention on post-season honorary teams. Ivo Niggemeyer was accorded honorable mention on Walter Eckersoll's All-Western team at the quarterback position. Niggemeyer kicked 17-19 conversion attempts. Bill Boelter was a unanimous choice for All-Valley and All-State halfback. Trescott Long attained like honors at end.

Considering football success from the standpoint of the number of games won and lost, the 1922 team, thus far, was Drake's most successful football team. Playing a seven game schedule, the Bulldogs completed their first and only undefeated season in the history of the school. The Quax terms the 1922-1923 year,

Drake's most illustrious year both athletically and academically . . . . Never before has Drake reached the height in athletics which she now holds . . . . The championship in football, coupled with Drake's being awarded a charter of Phi Beta Kappa as a measure of academic success, has made this a never to be forgotten year.<sup>1</sup>

Twenty-five men composed the varsity squad during Coach Ossiel Solem's second year at Drake. These men wasted little time in establishing themselves as a power to be recognized by opponents. In a comparatively easy game, they took the measure of Cornell, 16-0. Kansas was the first

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<sup>1</sup>Quax, 1924, Vol. 23, (Des Moines, Iowa: Drake University, 1924), pp. 154-159.



Valley team to challenge the Bulldogs. The Jayhawks came to Des Moines confident of a victory. On the previous Saturday, they had held strong Army to a low score. In one of the "most savagely fought games ever seen on the Drake field,"<sup>1</sup> the Bulldogs gained a hard fought 6-0 victory before eight thousand fans. "The fightingest outfit Drake rooters had seen here in many years"<sup>2</sup> held Kansas for downs on four separate occasions when the Jayhawks were inside the Drake twenty yard line. For her second conference win, Drake's line soundly dominated Washington; and the Drake men came home with a 31-7 victory.

Once again Drake played host to Iowa State on homecoming. However, the Iowa State jinx was broken, and Drake pleased hundreds of old grads with a 14-7 triumph. Drake had not beaten Iowa State since the championship year of 1909. Colorado A. & M. appeared on the Drake schedule for the first time and was defeated, 19-6. The men from Drake assured themselves a share of the Missouri Valley Conference title by handing Grinnell a 21-6 defeat in their final conference game. For the first time in her history, Drake had defeated every Valley foe who appeared on her schedule.

Drake's final game of the all-victorious season was played at Mississippi A. & M. College. In a Dad's day game,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 155.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



the Bulldogs humbled A. & M., 48-6. The Quax describes the game as being "Bill Boelter's Day"<sup>1</sup> instead of Dad's Day. Boelter scored five Drake touchdowns. When the Bulldogs arrived home from Mississippi, they were genuinely greeted by the city of Des Moines, whose people had enthusiastically followed them throughout the year.

The Wabash engineer pulled the whistle wide open and firemen all over the city tied whistle cords to firebox doors. Fire and police sirens roared throughout the city as the victorious Bulldogs arrived at the depot . . . . Acting mayor, Mrs. C. H. Morris, presented the key to the city to Captain Vivian Marsh . . . . A day long celebration, in which the team was paraded through the downtown Des Moines area followed . . . . The celebration was capped by a huge mass meeting in Drake auditorium.<sup>2</sup>

Drake's four victories and no defeats gave her a tie with Nebraska University for first place honors in the Missouri Valley Conference. She had outscored her conference foes, 72-14, and all her opponents, 155-26. Bill Boelter, Drake's great halfback, gained second team All-Western honors, as well as first team All-Valley and All-State. Sam Orebaugh was awarded second All-Valley and first All-State quarterback honors. Chuck Denton, Drake tackle, attained the same recognition as Orebaugh. The following players comprised the varsity squad of the undefeated 1922 team: Captain Vivian Marsh, Bill Boelter, Ike Armstrong, Chuck Denton, Ray Peterson,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 156.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 159.



Al Krueger, Brocks Heath, Cleatie Devine, Kenneth McLuen, Sam Orebaugh, Al Stocking, Ben Lingenfelter, George Armstrong, Harold Blanchard, Joe Head, James Bernhard, Paul Jones, Homer Lyon, Abe Marcovis, Charles Simpson, Jack Sparks, Ray Thorp, Martin Wade, and Harley Wilhelm.

During the 1923 football season, the Bulldogs, under the astute leadership of Coach Solem, continued to be a much feared team in the Missouri Valley Conference. Several players from the 1922 championship team, including Captain Bill Boelter, returned to the campus in 1923; and the Bulldogs proceeded to win further football laurels. By the end of the season, Drake had compiled a record which included five victories and two defeats. She had outscored her opponents 168 points to forty-nine points.

Rolla School of Mines initiated the football season at Drake stadium. In her first and only appearance on the Drake schedule, the Miners were defeated, 54-0. Rolla was unable to cope with the Minnesota shift as played by Drake. Drake did not attempt a pass, and every man on the varsity squad saw action in the game. Grinnell, in a conference game, proved to be only a token challenge to the rampaging Bulldogs. In a game that saw Drake turn three Grinnell blocked punts into touchdowns, the men wearing the Blue and White scored a decisive 41-0 win. Sam Orebaugh distinguished himself as one of Drake's most accomplished punters in this game. In seven punt-



ing attempts, he averaged fifty-five yards a kick.

For the second year in succession, the Bulldogs tamed the Cyclones from Iowa State. The Drake Quax termed the 21-0 victory "The most decisive defeat ever handed the Cyclones by the Blue and White."<sup>1</sup> Once again Bill Boelter distinguished himself as one of Drake's most illustrious halfbacks. Quoting the Quax once more, the following comment was found: "Old timers who have followed the Drake teams for many years said that Boelter made the best individual showing ever executed on the local field."<sup>2</sup>

After the resounding defeat of Iowa State, another undefeated year seemed within the grasp of the fighting Bulldogs. However, two factors dispelled any chances of a repeat of the 1922 showing. One was overconfidence concerning the Coe game, and the other was the talented playing of the Coe team. Coe, for the first time in history, defeated the Drake team, 12-6. Drake had compiled a thirteen game winning streak preceeding this defeat. She had not suffered defeat since the 10-0 loss at the hands of Iowa State in 1921. The victory by Coe was a bitter upset for Drake followers, especially when Drake had lost two touchdowns because of clipping penalties.

Drake's only conference defeat resulted from a 17-0

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<sup>1</sup>Quax, 1925, Vol. 24, (Des Moines, Iowa: Drake University, 1925) pp. 153 - 158.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 155.



loss at the University of Kansas. On three occasions, the Jayhawks, who tied for the Missouri Valley crown, stopped Bulldog touchdown drives on the twelve, fifteen and three yard lines of Kansas. Drake's final game of the 1923 season was a conference encounter with Oklahoma. In a game in which the lead changed hands several times, Drake downed the Sooners, 26-20. The Quax terms the game as, "the most thrilling and sensational of the year."<sup>1</sup>

The three victories and one defeat of the Bulldogs gave them third place in the Valley race.

Drake's hopes for future football success loomed greater than ever during the 1923 season. This optimism resulted from the fact that seventy candidates had participated in freshman football. No previous freshman squad had reached this number.

Drake's football fortunes continued on a high level of success during the 1924 season. Coach "Ossie" Solem, assisted by Ike Armstrong, Bill Boelter and Otis McCreery, led the Bulldogs to a five won, two lost and one tied record. The 1926 Quax gave a comprehensive description of the team in the following statement:

The 1924 team was one of those high-classed teams which Solem has turned out so consistently at Drake. A team that fights like a pack of Bulldogs, fights fairly, wins the respect of every team with which it plays and turns in a real record for the season's play.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 158.

<sup>2</sup>Quax, 1926, Vol. 25, (Des Moines, Iowa: Drake University, 1926) pp. 145 - 150.



In traveling more than six thousand miles, the 1924 Bulldogs were one of the most traveled ball teams in the school's history. This season marked the beginning of Drake's policy of taking the squad on at least one long, attractive trip for a game with a well known intersectional foe.

Led by such stalwarts as Captain Sam Orebaugh, Ted Sloan, Chuck Everett and Ben Lingenfelter, the Bulldogs began the season with a rousing 33-14 defeat of the University of Utah at Salt Lake City. This was Drake's first game in the high altitude characteristic of the Utah area. The rarified atmosphere seemed to have little effect upon the rampaging Bulldogs during the game, but the effects of the long trip took its toll during the following week when Ted Sloan, Chuck Everett and Sam Orebaugh were stricken by throat infection. Consequently, the Knox game, which was supposed to have been relatively easy, developed into a close game. After trailing 7-6 at the half, the Drake men pushed over two touchdowns in the second half for a 19-10 victory.

Drake's first Missouri Valley game resulted in a 13-0 victory over old rival, Grinnell. Two errors by the Scarlet and Black, a fumble and an intercepted pass caused their downfall.

In commenting on the Oklahoma game, which Drake won, 28-0, the Quax says:



Oklahoma had beaten strong Nebraska University in an earlier game and was doped by practically every sports writer in the Valley to have little trouble from the Drake squad . . . . After the tremendous Bulldog victory, hopes ran high for a Valley championship . . . . Prospects for winning the coveted crown loomed large and bright.<sup>1</sup>

The Bulldog homecoming festivities and visions of the Missouri Valley title were somewhat dampened by a 6-6 tie at the hands of the Kansas University Jayhawks. Drake had the ball on the Kansas goal line with first down and goal to go when the game ended.

Capitalizing on a Kansas State fumble, Ben Linginfelter, Drake's end, scored the Bulldog's only touchdown for a 7-6 Valley win. The brilliant punting of Sam Orebaugh repeatedly pulled the Bulldogs from dangerous situations and was greatly responsible for their second conference victory.

In another typically hard fought battle, the Bulldogs fell before Iowa State, 10-0. This game was her lone conference defeat. Two thousand fans watched anxiously during the first half as the Cyclones thrice repelled the Drake attack deep in Iowa State territory. After the 0-0 first half, the tide turned in favor of Iowa State and they scored a touchdown and a field goal for a well deserved victory.

Drake's second defeat came at the hands of the University of Florida, in Gainesville, Florida. In this, the last

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 147.



game of the season, the Bulldogs were downed 10-0. On the return trip, the team was routed through Washington, D. C. where they visited with President Calvin Coolidge. They also attended the Army vs. Navy game in Baltimore, Maryland.

Drake finished the season with a conference record of three games won, one lost and one tied. She finished second in the title race. Ben Lingenfelter was chosen on the All-Western and All-Valley teams. Ted Sloan was picked as an All-Valley end. Sam Orebaugh was chosen as a quarter-back on the All-Valley team and second All-Western.

During 1924, construction was started on the new Drake Stadium.

This season, with a five won and three lost record, marked the fifth successful year for the Bulldogs under the astute coaching of Ossie Solem, the "Maker of Men."<sup>1</sup> Solem was assisted by Al Krueger and Jack Sparks. With the exception of the Southern Methodist game, all games were played with Missouri Valley Conference teams.

The 1925 season saw the dedication of the new \$350,000. Drake football stadium with a seating capacity of 18,000. Drake officials hoped to increase the seating capacity to 30,000 after a few anticipated profitable seasons.

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<sup>1</sup>Quax, 1927, Vol. 26, (Des Moines, Iowa: Drake University, 1927), pp. 145 - 151.



Drake's first two Valley victories came at the expense of Washington University, 6-0, and Kansas State, 19-0. Drake's lone score in the Washington game came in the last quarter. Although Kansas State was Drake's first opponent in the new stadium, it was not officially dedicated at this time. Kansas State, coached by Cochrane, former Notre Dame All-American, featured the spread formation with the Rockne "goose step."

Drake, suffering from overconfidence, fell before vengeful Oklahoma, 7-0. A feature of the game was the manner in which the Oklahoma University team ran interference for the ball carrier. Instead of leaving their feet when blocking downfield, the blockers shielded the ball carrier and ran over the defender instead of blocking him.

Drake spoiled Grinnell's homecoming activities with a hard earned 7-6 victory. This was Drake's sixth consecutive victory over the Scarlet and Black. Grinnell's six points were a result of three safeties. Drake, led by Glenn "Squattie" Spears, hard-running halfback, gained her fourth conference victory with a 7-0 score over Kansas University. In scoring the lone Drake touchdown, Spears carried the ball seven consecutive times.

Eight thousand people helped Drake and Nebraska University officially dedicate the new Drake Stadium. Drake scored a stunning 14-0 victory over the powerful Cornhuskers. Commenting on the game, the Quax says, "Solem's men achieved the



greatest gridiron victory a decade and one of the nationally famed triumphs of the 1925 season."<sup>1</sup>

With hopes once again running high for a conference title, the Bulldogs met the Iowa State Cyclones in a decisive game. Once again the Ames team succeeded, 7-6, in relegating the fighting Bulldogs to a position of second place in the conference race.

Drake finished her season with an intersectional game at the home of Southern Methodist's Mustangs on Thanksgiving Day. It was Drake's privilege to play the Mustangs in the game which officially dedicated their new stadium. Drake was unable to cope with the power and speed of the Texas team and sustained her third defeat by a 21-8 score.

Post season honors were heaped upon Bulldog players and coaches. The Drake Quax paid the following tribute to the team:

The 1925 football season was one of the most gratifying to Bulldog fans. Although the team lost the Missouri Valley championship for the second successive year by again falling before Ames in the final conference game, a spectacular 14-0 triumph over Nebraska, one of the leading machines in the country, the placing for the first time in Drake annals of an athlete on the All-American eleven together with runner-up honors in the Valley, left little to be desired.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 151.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 145.



Ted Sloan, Drake's brilliant 156 pound end, was chosen on the first team All-American, All-Western and All-Valley teams. Glenn Spears was picked on the first team at halfback on both the All-Western and All-Valley squads. Lyle Ewart was chosen on the All-Valley team at guard.

In an unprecedented action, Drake University, expressing its gratitude to Coach Solem, awarded him a ten year contract.

The Drake Quax quoted the following regarding the outlook for 1926:

A winning Varsity team was practically assured Ossie Solem for next year when more than eighty crack freshmen stars reported to Coaches Krueger and Sparks for the initial practice of the football season. Many new stars were unearthed during the season to fill vacancies in the line and backfield caused by graduation.<sup>1</sup>

The 1926 season was the worst season that Drake experienced under the master hand of Ossie Solem. Drake won only two games and lost six. Her one win and four losses buried her deeply in eighth place in the Missouri Valley Conference. Three conditions were determining factors in the demise of the Bulldogs. First, the Drake team was young, light and inexperienced. Drake forces had been sadly depleted by graduation in the spring of 1926. Secondly, the addition as such strong teams as Navy, Mississippi University and

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 146.



Notre Dame presented the Bulldogs a much stronger schedule than in the past. Third, and perhaps most important, Coach Solem was ill with the flu most of the season.

At Lincoln, Nebraska, the Cornhuskers reaped sweet vengeance in defeating the Bulldogs, 21-0. Nebraska University fielded a strong team which had patiently awaited the day when she might avenge the 14-0 upset at the hands of the 1925 Bulldogs. With a 24-7 victory, Navy continued to heap misery upon the heads of the impotent Bulldogs. Navy's four touchdowns came as a result of her passing game. This game marked the first time that Navy appeared on the Drake schedule, and was also the first time that Drake had traveled to the east coast for a football game. Because of a mistake in scheduling, Navy played and won a double-header on the day that she played Drake. Navy defeated both Drake and Richmond on the same day.

Drake's first home game was played against the powerful Oklahoma Sooners. Oklahoma was touted as the strongest team since her conference championship in 1920. Before a Dad's Day crowd, the Bulldogs fell, 11-0, for her third straight defeat. The University of Mississippi was the first team to succumb to the Bulldogs. On a muddy field, the Drake team handed Ol' Mississippi a 33-15 defeat. Two long touchdown runs by Drake's quarterback, Chuck Everett, featured the game. Mississippi players generally agreed that Drake had a good, fast team which compared favorably with leading teams of the South.



The 1926 Drake homecoming game was played with the University of Kansas. Neither Drake nor Kansas had won a conference game. The Delphic comments thusly about the impending contest.

The Kansas team has always been a stumbling block for Drake. Jayhawk teams have, on two occasions, spoiled championship chances for Solem coached teams, and the Bulldogs are determined to beat them decisively on this homecoming tilt . . . . Drake, because of her victory over Ol' Mississippi, is given a slight edge.<sup>1</sup>

Babe Ruth visited the Drake football practice before the Kansas game.

The Bambino did not stay long at the stadium, but while there, he put on a suit and came out and joined the squad as though he were a new candidate for the team.<sup>2</sup>

Drake scored twice in the first quarter and successfully defended her goal during the remainder of the game for a 13-0 win.

Even though the Bulldogs were experiencing a rather dismal season, Drake student enthusiasm did not waver. Led by the "Peps", girls cheering organization, and the "Growlers", boys cheering organization, the student body remained very loyal to their team. Because of student and town loyalty for both teams, fifteen thousand spectators witnessed the 1926 Drake vs. Iowa State game at Ames.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 28, 1926, Vol. 45, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 5.



The rivalry between the two teams has always been great, but seldom has it been so intense as it was in Saturday's contest. Both teams were evenly matched and were keyed to the highest pitch. The result was just a matter of which could get the breaks.<sup>1</sup>

At the final gun, Iowa State led 13-7.

With a recurrence of the flu which had hampered him since the Navy game, Coach Solem was confined to his Minneapolis home when the Bulldogs played Notre Dame at South Bend, Indiana. Two hundred-fifty Drake Alumni from the Illinois-Indiana area attended the game which was Notre Dame homecoming. In this first meeting between the two schools, Drake fought gamely but could not overcome the 21-0 lead of the Notre Dame team.

Drake concluded the 1926 season on Thanksgiving Day against Grinnell. Playing in a dense fog which obscured the vision of spectators, the Grinnell team defeated Drake, 13-0. This was Grinnell's first victory over Drake since the 71-0 victory in 1918.

Charles "Chuck" Everett was accorded second team All-Western quarterback and first team All-Valley honors. In honor of Everett's sterling play, the January 26, 1927, issue of the Drake Delphic was dedicated to him.

On the freshman squad was Lynn King who was to have a career steeped in football glory during the coming three years.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, November 7, 1926, Vol. 45, p. 5.



The 1927 season was a very important one in the history of Drake athletics. Perhaps the event which had the most resounding effect upon Drake was the schism which occurred within the Missouri Valley Conference. The Conference had grown to ten teams which were Drake, Grinnell, Washington, Oklahoma University, Oklahoma A. & M., Kansas University, Iowa State, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas State.

In the fall of 1927, six teams, namely, Iowa State, Kansas State, Kansas University, Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma University withdrew from the Valley to become the Big Six Conference. According to these schools, the main reason for breaking up the Conference was the difference in prowess of the remaining Missouri Valley teams and the Big Six teams. The Missouri Valley consisted of Drake, Grinnell, Washington and Oklahoma A. & M.

There was considerable controversy as to whether or not Drake had been treated fairly. Drake's over-all Valley Conference record stood at twenty-nine wins and forty-one losses. But from 1920 to 1926, she had won eighteen and lost ten in Valley competition.

Nine lettermen returned to Coach Solem from the 1926 squad. With assistants Bill Boelter and Chuck Everett, Solem prepared the Bulldogs for the most difficult schedule in Drake history. In statements to the athletic board, E. C. Lytton, Drake Business Manager, and Coach Solem explained the



reason for Drake's policy of playing "big name" schools.

Lytton commented:

I want you men to understand that this schedule, as completed thus far and as planned, is not the schedule Ossie Solem would make if his personal wishes were considered. He believes, as do the rest of us, that the only way to pay the interest on the \$420,000 bond issue, which was required before we could construct the new stadium, is to schedule good teams. We are not arranging these games because we are egotistical or think Drake rates meeting such tough opposition throughout the entire season. Ossie is willing to sacrifice his personal desires and fortunes for the good of the cause.<sup>1</sup>

Solem made the following statement:

The schedule this season and the one planned for next year are absolutely ruining me as a coach, but I understand the need of a heavy schedule and am willing to tackle it.<sup>2</sup>

The above statement gives an insight into the character of Coach Solem and makes understandable the student loyalty to him. This loyalty is expressed in the following comment:

This campus has been singularly free from criticism of its coach. Ossie Solem's status with us is clear. We want him as long as he wants us, and longer for that matter. It will be a dark day for Drake when Ossie Solem chooses another coaching position.<sup>3</sup>

The 1927 record of three wins and six losses was little better than the 1926 record, but the nucleus of fine Drake teams to come was receiving rugged seasoning.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 27, 1927, Vol. 46, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.



Drake opened the season with a 35-6 loss to Navy at Annapolis. Ted Sloan, Drake's All-American in 1925, was a member of the Navy team. Pittsburgh's Golden Panthers next appeared on the Drake schedule. This was Drake's first home intersectional game with an eastern team. Pittsburgh had never before played in a game west of the Mississippi River. Drake could not cope with the Pittsburgh powerhouse and was defeated, 32-0. "The Panther display of line smashing, end running and passing was one of the finest that has ever been seen in Drake stadium."<sup>1</sup>

Two Drake victories came at the expense of old rivals, Simpson and Grinnell. Jack Barnes, Drake fullback, led the Bulldogs to a 20-6 victory over Simpson. At the Grinnell homecoming, the Blue and White registered its first Missouri Valley Conference win of the season. The "Pioneers", as they were then called, went down to a 26-6 defeat, and Drake brought the Old Oaken Bucket back to Des Moines. The bucket was a traveling trophy donated to the winner by a Grinnell Alum. It had all of the previous scores inscribed upon it.

Four successive defeats followed the Grinnell victory. Before a Kansas University homecoming crowd, Drake fell, 7-6. Drake led, 6-0, until the middle of the fourth quarter. Kansas had not scored on the Bulldogs since the 6-6 tie in 1924.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.



Drake opened the season with a 35-6 loss to Navy at Annapolis. Ted Sloan, Drake's All-American in 1925, was a member of the Navy team. Pittsburgh's Golden Panthers next appeared on the Drake schedule. This was Drake's first home intersectional game with an eastern team. Pittsburgh had never before played in a game west of the Mississippi River. Drake could not cope with the Pittsburgh powerhouse and was defeated, 32-0. "The Panther display of line smashing, end running and passing was one of the finest that has ever been seen in Drake stadium."<sup>1</sup>

Two Drake victories came at the expense of old rivals, Simpson and Grinnell. Jack Barnes, Drake fullback, led the Bulldogs to a 20-6 victory over Simpson. At the Grinnell homecoming, the Blue and White registered its first Missouri Valley Conference win of the season. The "Pioneers", as they were then called, went down to a 26-6 defeat, and Drake brought the Old Oaken Bucket back to Des Moines. The bucket was a traveling trophy donated to the winner by a Grinnell Alum. It had all of the previous scores inscribed upon it.

Four successive defeats followed the Grinnell victory. Before a Kansas University homecoming crowd, Drake fell, 7-6. Drake led, 6-0, until the middle of the fourth quarter. Kansas had not scored on the Bulldogs since the 6-6 tie in 1924.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.



Drake played Iowa State in her own homecoming game. As a result of a 12-12 tie with Illinois and a victory over previously unbeaten Kansas State, the Cyclones were a two touchdown favorite. In another bitterly contested game, the Bulldogs were defeated, 7-0. Drake fumbled on its own twenty yard line late in the fourth period, and Iowa State scored the lone touchdown of the game.

Before a crowd of forty thousand, Drake met Minnesota University at Minneapolis. This was the first time that Minnesota University had ever played against a team coached by a former University of Minnesota student. The powerful Gophers, led by All-American Joesting, had little difficulty in disposing of the out-manned Bulldogs, 27-6. The University of Minnesota first team played only the first half.

Notre Dame handed the Bulldogs their final defeat of the season. Bringing a fifty-man squad to Drake Stadium, the Irish humbled Drake, 32-0. This was the second meeting between the two schools. Drake's third victory occurred when she defeated U. C. L. A. at Los Angeles by a satisfying 25-6 score. This was Drake's first trip to the west coast. With a record of one win and two losses, Drake finished ninth in the Conference.

Drake awarded twenty letter sweaters at the close of the 1927 season.

The squad gave Coach Solem the privilege of selecting the team captain. He chose Bill Cook.



Led by Captain "Gib" Holliday, ten lettermen were available for the 1928 season. Coach Solem, in his eighth season, was assisted by Bill Boelter and Ted Sloan. Although the 1928 schedule was not quite as difficult as those of 1926 and 1927, the Bulldogs, nevertheless, were challenged seriously to show the results of two years of hard work by Coach Solem and his assistants. Led by such talented backs as Lynn King, Charles Van Koten, and Dick Nesbitt, who were assisted by a great line anchored by "Gib" Holliday and Chuck Delmege, the Bulldogs smashed through an eight game schedule with seven wins and one loss. This was the best record since the undefeated season of 1922.

In true pioneering spirit, Drake once again launched into the unknown night football. Only two major colleges in the United States had ever dared play football at night. Cincinnati, in 1926, and William and Mary, in 1927, had previously played under the lights. The Drake vs. Simpson game in 1928 was the first successful college game ever played under the arc lights west of the Mississippi. The Delphic contains the following comment concerning the new experiment. "This new lighting innovation is another step of progress made by the athletic department. It will keep Drake a stride ahead of other schools in athletic prominence."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October 4, 1928, Vol. 47, p. 3.



Opening the 1928 campaign against Simpson, the Bulldogs easily scored a 40-6 victory. Marquette gave the Drake juggernaut little trouble, as the Bulldogs rolled to a 26-7 win. The game, considered an upset, featured the brilliant running of Drake's fancy sophomore quarterback, Lynn King, and hard-running halfback, Dick Nesbitt. King scored three touchdowns.

In the Old Oaken Bucket game with Grinnell, the Bulldogs retained possession of the prized trophy with a 19-7 victory. Ten thousand Drake homecoming fans witnessed the night game in which the strong Drake line, composed of Chuck Delmege and Al Wensel at ends, Ronald Shearer and "Gib" Holliday at tackles, Bill Graustra and Les Jones at guards, and Waldo Don Carlos at center, convincingly dominated the Pioneer line.

Before the Notre Dame game, hopes for a Bulldog victory seemed to be well grounded. Drake was as strong as she had been for several years. Notre Dame had lost two previous games and was not nationally ranked that year. However, Notre Dame had not suffered a defeat at home since 1906. The Bulldogs were not strong enough to shatter that record and in a 32-6 Notre Dame rout, absorbed their only loss of the season.

Missouri University appeared on the Drake schedule for the first time since 1921. One hundred male students and the band made the "annual student migration" to Columbia, Missouri, to cheer the Bulldogs to a hard fought 6-0 victory. A four yard touchdown plunge enabled Drake to gain her first victory over the Tigers since 1903.



The speedy Bulldogs continued their winning ways against Washington with a 20-0 conquest of the Bears. Features of the game were a sixty-three yard touchdown run by Lynn King and a ninety yard punt by Dick Nesbitt.

Taking advantage of an open date, the Drake team held secret practices in an attempt to break the five-game winning streak with the Iowa State Cyclones had exercised over the Bulldogs. The Cyclone record was not as impressive as in preceding years, nor was the team as strong. Drake had little difficulty in winning by an 18-0 score.

The last opponent barring the Bulldogs Missouri Valley title hopes was Creighton, which had obtained Valley membership in 1928. The game was played on Thanksgiving Day at Omaha. On an icy field and in a blinding blizzard, the Blue and White team clinched an undisputed Valley championship with a 6-0 victory.

"Gib" Holliday, tackle, Les Jones, guard, Chuck Delmege, end, Lynn King, quarterback, and Dick Nesbitt, halfback, dominated the All-Valley selections.

After the Drake vs. Ames game in 1928, the following "All Solem Coached Drake Team" was picked by Solem and old Drake athletes: Ray Peterson, center; Lester Jones and Vivian Marsh, guards; Al Krueger and Charles Denton, tackles; Ben Lingenfelter and Ted Sloan, ends; Ivo Niggemeyer, quarterback; Bill Boelter and Sam Orebaugh, halfbacks; and Dick Nesbitt, fullback.



Eighteen lettermen, largest number thus far, greeted Coach Solem and his assistants, Bill Boelter and Ted Sloan, for the 1929 season. Among these lettermen were Lynn King, "the Phantom Atom", Captain Jack Barnes, Dick Nesbitt and Charley Van Koten. This was, perhaps, the most famous and successful backfield in Drake history. In compiling a record of five victories, three defeats and one tie, the Bulldogs played five night games. As evidenced by the following statement in the Delphic, Drake's confidence in night football had paved the way for others.

As a pioneer in night football, Drake University has drawn to itself the attention of the entire sporting world. Last year, night playing was more or less of an experiment which proved to be highly successful. The new idea now has a firm root and the coming season finds many leading colleges electing to play their most important games under the floodlights . . . . The extra cost of staging a contest by artificial light is more than overbalanced by the increase in gate receipts . . . . All Valley teams except Grinnell now have lighted fields. Some of the eastern schools remain skeptical, but mid-western and far western writers and coaches are almost unanimously enthusiastic . . . . Unlike some ideas, the unlucky inventor of which loses all precedence, this innovation is everywhere connected inseparably with the name of Drake University, the school that took the pioneer's chance.<sup>1</sup>

Simpson, 39-0, and Oklahoma A. & M., 18-6, were the first victims of the Drake men. Oklahoma A. & M. came to Drake with a strong, fast team but could not match the power-

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, September 26, 1929, Vol. 48, p. 4.



house so soundly constructed by Coach Solem. Lynn King once again electrified the crowd with a sixty-five yard touchdown run.

Drake's second defense of her Valley title came at Washington University of St. Louis. The game was the Bear's first attempt at night football. Washington was rated as a dangerous contender for the championship. Upon arriving at the St. Louis depot, the Drake team and students who accompanied the team were presented with a key to the city. Despite the splendid hospitality, Drake nevertheless eliminated Washington's title hopes by a 20-0 score. Lynn King ran his point total to forty-six and his total yardage to 554 in this game.

Drake's first defeat resulted in a 20-0 Missouri University victory. Missouri had defeated Iowa State and was rated high in the Big Six Conference race. For Drake's homecoming game, Grinnell brought a strong team to Des Moines. On the previous Saturday, she had defeated Marquette and appeared to be determined to capture the "Old Oaken Bucket." Neither team left the field with a feeling of victory as the game ended in a 6-6 tie. Since Grinnell failed to win the game, Drake retained possession of the coveted trophy.

In a game that was to decide the Missouri Valley championship, Creighton met the Bulldogs at Des Moines. Creighton was unable to contain the strong Bulldog team and was easily beaten by a 34-12 score. For the second successive year, Drake



took possession of the Missouri Valley crown. This year, the Drake record was three wins and one tie.

Soldier's Field, Chicago, Illinois, was the scene of the 1929 Drake vs. Notre Dame football game. For the first time in the history of the school, Drake girls were allowed to accompany the men students on a student migration. A large number of Drake students thus accompanied the team to Chicago. The sixty-five piece Drake varsity band also accompanied the team to the Notre Dame game. Notre Dame was once again undefeated and heavily favored to down the Bulldogs. Fifty-five thousand fans, the largest crowd ever to watch the Blue and White, witnessed a very hotly contested game. Going into the fourth quarter, the score was tied 6-6. However, superior manpower and larger numbers finally prevailed and the Fighting Irish won, 19-7.

Drake's final two games were both extremely difficult for the Bulldogs. Old Rival, Iowa State, once again fell before the Bulldog might, 7-0. In a hard fought 16-14 game at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Temple, a power of the east handed the Drake team its third defeat of the season.

Waldo Don Carlos at center, William Graustra at guard, Lynn King at quarterback, and Dick Nesbitt, at halfback, were chosen on the first All-Missouri Valley honorary team.

Coaches Ossie Solem, Bill Boelter and Gibson Holliday were greeted by thirty-eight varsity candidates in the fall of



1930. This season marked the tenth season for the Bulldogs under the guidance of Coach Solem. During the previous nine years, winning 63.9 per cent of her games, Drake had played thirty different teams. Lynn King, Drake's 153 pound All-Conference quarterback, captained the Bulldogs to a five games won and four lost season.

Continuing her policy of playing some of the top teams in the nation, Drake, in her opening game of the season, met the University of Oregon at Soldier's Field, Chicago, Illinois. Oregon was the defending co-champion of the strong Pacific Coast Conference. This game marked the beginning of night football at Soldier's Field. As the Bulldogs left the field with a half time lead of 7-0, twelve thousand football partisans witnessed a possible upset. However, Oregon pushed over two touchdowns in the second half to win the game, 14-7.

Marquette handed the Bulldogs their second defeat of the season by a 12-0 score. Drake outgained Marquette 285 yards to 141 and registered twenty first downs to Marquette's 7. However, Drake miscues cost them the game. Joe Fitzgerald, substitute Marquette end, intercepted a Drake lateral pass on his own five yard line and scored a ninety-five yard touchdown run. Marquette intercepted a Drake pass and scored the second touchdown of the game.

Drake met Grinnell in the 1930 homecoming contest. In a novel exhibition stunt just before game time an airplane flew



low over Drake stadium dropping the game ball onto the field. The Bulldogs emerged with a 20-7 victory, and six hundred visiting Grinnell rooters were sadly disappointed. In another bitterly contested game, the Bulldogs fell before Missouri University's Tigers, 14-13. Lynn King played most of the game with a broken hand. Drake's second Valley Conference victory came at the expense of Washington's Bears by a 12-0 score.

In a game which clinched the championship of the Valley Conference for Drake, Creighton once again lost to the Bulldogs. Drake had not lost a Valley game in three years. Only the Grinnell 6-6 tie in 1929 marred Drake's perfect three year Valley record.

Once again Notre Dame proved too strong for the Drake team, and the Bulldogs, by a 28-7 score, sustained their fifth straight loss at the hands of the Irish. Drake prepared for the impending game with Iowa State. In past years, it had been the custom of Iowa State and Drake students to paint signs on the campus of the rival school. Drake students were determined that this would not happen in 1930. Waldo Don Carlos, Drake center and president of the Drake "D" Club, issued the following statement:

If athletic organizations of the two schools can help it, there will not be a repetition of the painting war between overzealous Iowa State and Drake supporters. The "D" Club will take every action to prevent any painting.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 12, 1930, Vol. 49, p. 4.



In a typically hard fought battle between the two long and friendly rivals, the Bulldogs edged by the Cyclones, 20-19. This loss was Iowa State's fourteenth straight over a period of two years.

Drake's last game of the season resulted in an unexpected and well deserved win for the Bulldogs. In a very one-sided affair, the Drake men triumphed, 49-20, over a supposedly power laden Temple University.

Waldo Don Carlos at center, Lynn King at quarterback, and John Briley at end, were chosen on the All-Missouri Valley Conference team. Don Carlos and Lynn King were also chosen on the Notre Dame all-opponent team. Knute Rockne called Don Carlos the best center in the midwest.

After the Drake victory over the Bears, Lynn King, Drake's three-time All-Valley quarterback, was paid a well earned tribute by Dr. Al Sharp, Washington coach.

If Don Carlos was the sparkplug of the Drake team, then King was the battery. The little Drake ace almost singlehandedly beat my team when we nearly had the Bulldogs licked. I take off my hat to the player who, weighing 153 pounds and handicapped by a broken hand, can go in and arouse a losing team to such an extent that it pushes over two touchdowns in the last half to win. He is one of the cleverest signal callers ever to play in the midwest.<sup>1</sup>

Forty-four varsity football candidates turned out for the fall practice of 1931. This was Ossie Solem's eleventh

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 2, 1930, Vol. 49, p. 5.



and last season at the Bulldog helm. With their first game being played on October 2, and their last on December 19, the Bulldogs played a record setting eleven game schedule. Perhaps the attractive schedule, highlighted by a game with the University of Hawaii in Hawaii, was responsible for the extra large number of varsity candidates in the 1931 season. Solem, Lynn King, and Jack Barnes coached the Bulldogs, who were led by Captain John Briley. During this year, Drake rivaled the 1924 squad for the title of Drake's most traveled team. The Bulldogs played on both the east and west coasts of the United States as well as in Hawaii. With the Bulldogs ending the season with five victories and six defeats, Solem finished his third year of eleven below the fifty per cent winning mark. Other losing seasons were in 1926 when the Drakes won two and lost six and in 1927 when they won three and lost six.

Because of the economic depression enveloping the country, Drake decreased its ticket prices. In an attempt to attract more women and children, the holder of a one dollar general admission ticket was allowed any number of women's and children's tickets for the same section at twenty-five cents apiece.

Drake started the season in winning fashion. Simpson fell to the Blue and White, 26-0. With a seventy-one yard touchdown run, sophomore Al Weiland sparked the Drake attack. Creighton, Drake's first Valley foe, was next to experience the might of the Bulldogs. Drake scored three touchdowns in



the first half and coasted to a 19-0 victory.

Notre Dame handed Drake its worst defeat in their athletic series when, at South Bend, Indiana, the Irish defeated the Bulldogs, 63-0. Drake was unable to cope with the perennially powerful Notre Dame team led by the renowned Marchie Swartz. Drake's next game was played in the Polo Grounds, home of the New York Giants' baseball team. Fordham was the Drake opponent. This was the first time that an Iowa team had ever played in the Polo Grounds. Once again, Drake fell before a decided manpower advantage and were humbled, 46-0. Drake had failed to score against two of the nation's top-ranked teams.

Back in St. Louis, Missouri, for their second conference game against Washington, the Bulldogs played winning football. In their 26-0 victory, Drake dominated the game. The game statistics showed that Drake gained 474 total yards to Washington's 273. Drake made sixteen first downs to Washington's eight. At Drake, Missouri University, for the third year in succession downed the Drake team. Although tied 13-13 at the half, Missouri won by a final score of 32-20.

For the fourth straight year, Iowa State succumbed to the Drake Bulldogs. After a determined and spirited game, the Drakes won, 7-6. The Drake Times Delphic made the following comment on the game:



Playing as though their lives depended upon the outcome of the game, the Bulldogs completely redeemed themselves for all games lost thus far this season. Not a player on the squad had ever been beaten by an Iowa State crew and with dogged determinism, they rammed, plunged, and blocked their way to victory to remain undefeated in four years by the Cyclones.<sup>1</sup>

Grinnell once again was homecoming foe for the Bulldogs. This was the thirty-eighth annual battle and the fifth anniversary for the coveted Old Oaken Bucket. Drake defeated the Pioneers, 6-0, and captured her fourth straight undefeated conference crown. Grinnell had still not gained possession of the Old Oaken Bucket. On Thanksgiving Day and in the last home game of the season, Marquette, behind 6-0 at the half, came back in the second half to crush the Bulldogs, 36-6.

Drake's final games of the 1931 season were with Loyola of Los Angeles, California, and the University of Hawaii in Hawaii. Twenty-one players comprised the squad which embarked upon the month long trip. Although the Drake men were hospitably treated at both schools, they were not permitted to come home with victories. Loyola defeated the Bulldogs, 22-6, and Hawaii won by a 19-13 score. Drake received \$8,000 for the overseas trip and spent \$8,500. Officials of the University of Hawaii sent the following very complimentary statements to Drake's President Morehouse:

We would like to have you know what a fine impression your football squad, including the coach, made during their

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 19, 1931, Vol- 50, p. 4.



recent visit to Hawaii. No visiting team has ever played cleaner football; and, as nearly as we could ascertain, all the boys behaved both on and off the field, in a manner which reflected the utmost credit upon your university.<sup>1</sup>

At the close of the 1931 season, Coach Ossie Solem resigned his coaching position at Drake and became football coach at the University of Iowa. Solem completed eleven years of coaching at Drake with an enviable record of fifty-four games won, thirty-five lost and two tied for a winning mark of 60.4 per cent. Solem's record is unsurpassed, with the exception of A. B. Potters three year mark of 61.1 per cent. During the years of Coach Solem, the Bulldogs competed against some of the best known teams in football. Such teams as Minnesota, Notre Dame, U. C. L. A., Pittsburgh, Navy, Oregon, Temple and Fordham appeared on the Drake schedule. The complete record of Solem's teams for the eleven year period against Missouri Valley and Big Six teams follows:

	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>
Grinnell	9	1
Creighton	4	0
Oklahoma A. & M.	1	0
Washington	6	0
Iowa State	6	5
Oklahoma	2	2
Nebraska	1	1
Missouri	1	4
Kansas	4	2
Kansas State	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
	36	16

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, February 4, 1932, Vol. 51, p. 4.



Drake coached by Evan O. Williams. Evan O. Williams succeeded Ossie Solem as the head football coach at Drake University in 1932. Williams came to Drake from South High School in Minneapolis, Minnesota. There he had established the enviable football coaching record of sixty-six victories, fourteen defeats and five ties. Williams was assisted in his only season as head football coach of the Bulldogs by Ted Sloane and Jack Barnes. Milo Bowers captained the Blue and White team. The Bulldogs tumbled to a two won, six lost and one tied season.

By humbling the Simpson Redmen, 31-9, Drake began the season in a very impressive fashion. At the end of the first quarter, Simpson led the Drake team, 9-0. Bulldog hopes for another Conference championship were quickly extinguished by the powerful Oklahoma Aggies. On Drake's first offensive play of the game, Drake's Al Weiland scored a touchdown on a ninety-five yard gallop, and it appeared that the Bulldogs might down the Aggies for the second time in the two year history of playing between the two schools. However, throughout the rest of the game, Weiland's touchdown was the only touchdown scored by the Drake eleven. In the meantime, Oklahoma A. & M., coached by Lynn Waldorf, rolled on to twenty-seven points and an eventual Valley championship. This defeat was the first Drake defeat in the Valley since its inception



in 1928.

Following the Oklahoma A. & M. game, came the worst scoring drouth in Drake football history. During the next four games, Drake did not score a point. Notre Dame inflicted the worst defeat upon the hapless Bulldogs. In the game played at South Bend, Indiana, Drake was mauled, 62-0. Notre Dame played four teams against the Bulldogs. This score by Notre Dame came within one point of reaching the record 63-0 score rolled up by the 1931 Irish eleven. The 1932 game terminated the football relationship between Drake and Notre Dame. Drake failed to win a game in the seven game series. While at Notre Dame, the Drake squad visited the grave of Knute Rockne and placed a wreath upon it in memory of the great Notre Dame coach.

Drake's next defeat came at the hands of the Creighton Bluejays. Before a homecoming crowd at Omaha, the Creighton team scored a decisive 12-0 victory over the fighting Bulldogs. On a rain soaked field, the Bluejays, rated the best in many years, won their first game against Drake since 1915. Before Drake's homecoming crowd, Grinnell's Pioneers inflicted the third conference loss upon the Bulldogs by registering a 7-0 victory. Prior to this defeat, Drake, since 1920, had won eight homecoming games and lost three. Butler University joined the Missouri Valley Conference in 1932. Her entrance into the league brought the membership to six teams. Her only conference game of the season was a 0-0 tie in a game



played at Indianapolis. This was the first game ever played between Drake and Butler.

Drake won her only conference game of the season when she defeated Washington University by the narrow margin of 6-0. Neither team's record was impressive and Bulldog rooters felt, preceeding the game, that the Blue and White had a chance for victory. The Times Delphic explains Drake thoughts in the following statement:

A season of disappointments and losses are behind for Drake. Ahead lies Washington and a chance to partly redeem an unsuccessful season. Coach Williams and his fighting Bulldogs have one view in mind as they moye through practices this week to "Beat Washington".<sup>1</sup>

Iowa State loomed next on the Bulldog schedule. Drake had won the last four games with her old rival. Each team had won two games prior to the annual contest and neither was considered the favorite. Hopes for a victory ran high in both schools for: "Upon the outcome of the Drake vs. Iowa State game this week rests the success of the season for each team. Past defeats will be forgotten by the winner."<sup>2</sup> Three thousand spectators watched the Cyclones dominate the Drake squad and post an unexpected 34-13 victory.

Drake's sixth defeat of the season occurred at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the powerful Marquette team overwhelmed Drake

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 10, 1932, Vol. 51, p. 5.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 17, 1932, Vol. 51, p. 4.



by a 45-0 score. So completely did Marquette dominate the game, that the Bulldogs were not able to garner a first down throughout the entire game.

Drake's record of one win, three losses, and one tie in Missouri Valley Conference play dropped her to fifth place. Captain Milo Bowers was picked at guard on the first All-Valley team.



## CHAPTER IV

### FOURTEEN YEARS UNDER

### "VEE" GREEN

Drake coached by Vivian J. "Vee" Green. Vivian J. "Vee" Green assumed the duties as head football coach at Drake University in 1933. In the Red Grange era of the early twenties, Green had been a collegiate football star at the University of Illinois. Before coming to Drake, he had been a very successful coach at Oklahoma City University. While there his teams won thirty-seven, lost thirteen and tied two. Bill Williams remained at Drake as an assistant in football and head basketball coach. During Green's first of fourteen years as head football coach, the Bulldogs led by Captain Paul Brechler, once again developed into a football powerhouse.

Opening the season against an inspired Simpson team, the Drake eleven ground out a hard fought 14-7 victory. It appeared that Simpson might stage an upset leading the Bulldogs 7-0 going into the final quarter. Drake's next game saw "Vee" Green taking his Bulldogs back to his Alma Mater, the University of Illinois, for a game with his former coach, Bob Zupke. Drake had not played Illinois since the 41-0 defeat at the hands of the Illini in 1920. It was not until the last half of the closely contested game that the vaunted



Illini were able to push over thirteen points for a 13-6 victory. In discussing the game, Coach Zupke issued the following compliment to the Bulldogs. "'Vee' Green brought a well-trained Drake team to Illinois. If he is able to develop a passing attack, he will be strong in the Missouri Valley."<sup>1</sup> Zupke's prediction was proven correct by the rugged team which wore the Blue and White colors throughout the remainder of the 1933 season.

For their first conference win of the season, Bulldog halfbacks Warren Gaer and Al Weiland led the Bulldogs to a 26-6 victory over Butler. Butler was unable to contain the hard-running Bulldog backs who were so well protected by the strong Drake line. Creighton was next to feel the bite of the frontrunning Bulldogs. Six thousand fans watched Drake edge badly crippled Creighton by a score of 6-0. Creighton, minus their injured All-American halfback candidate, Conrad Collin, were on the Drake one yard line as the first half ended. This was Creighton's only serious threat during the rest of the game.

Grinnell was the third conference team to test the might of the Drake team. During the night preceeding the game, the Bulldogs were quartered at the Hyperion Country Club. Because of their record, the Bulldogs were heavily favored to defeat

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 5, 1933, Vol. 52, p. 4.



the Pioneers. The Times Delphic had the following comment concerning the coming game. "People fail to take into account that Grinnell is always at its best when they tangle with Drake."<sup>1</sup> After a hard fought game, the Bulldogs finally came forth with a 13-0 victory. Had it not been for the alertness of the Drake team, the Old Oaken Bucket might have remained at Grinnell. Drake turned a Grinnell fumble and a wild lateral into a pair of touchdowns and a satisfying victory. Washington proved to be Drake's last conference victim. The steam-rolling Drake offense was held to a low total of six points. The Bears failed to score.

Two successive defeats marred the Drake record. At Philadelphia, the Bulldogs, with a 20-14 score, met defeat at the hands of the Temple Owls. Temple, coached by Pop Warner, used a deceptive double wing back offense. The 1933 game terminated the Drake-Temple football relationship with the Owls having won two and the Blue and White one.

Drake and Oklahoma A. & M. battled it out for the conference championship at Stillwater, Oklahoma, in the final Valley game for Drake. Preceding the game, "Vee" Green was pessimistic about the outcome.

The Aggies use the same style offense that Temple used against us last week, a deceptive double wing back attack. If our linemen do not respond better against the "Cowboys"

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 26, 1933, Vol. 52, p. 5.



than they did last week, I see no hope for victory.<sup>1</sup>

Green's pessimism was well founded. While they scored twenty-one points and captured the Missouri Valley Conference title, the Aggies held the Bulldogs scoreless. Drake played five Valley games and the Aggies only two.

For the second time during the season, Drake played the Grinnell Pioneers. Grinnell, who had not won a game, failed to better her record in this Grinnell homecoming contest with the Bulldogs. By a 13-0 score, identical to that of the first game, the Bulldogs defeated the Grinnell team. This game did not count in the conference standings. The Missouri Valley Conference Record Book<sup>2</sup> states that Drake closed the season with a record of four games won and one lost. The victories came at the expense of Creighton, Washington, Grinnell, once, and Butler. Oklahoma A. & M. inflicted the lone defeat upon the Bulldogs. The above five schools, plus Drake, comprised the conference in 1933.

Once again Iowa State provided competition for the Bulldogs on homecoming day. Iowa State had registered only three victories in the season's play. In a speech at the annual homecoming pep rally, Dr. Luther S. Ross, entitled Drake's "Father of Athletics" by the student body, reminisced thusly:

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 9, 1933, Vol. 52, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Missouri Valley Conference Record Book (St. Louis: Cordes Printing Company, 1950), p. 13.



Ames and Grinnell have been our rivals ever since we achieved a place on the football map . . . . There seemed to be in those early days an unnecessary bitterness between the schools . . . . Now there is a kindly and generous rivalry. This is especially true of the Missouri Valley Conference. Everyone takes the decisions without question.<sup>1</sup>

In a typical, hotly contested game, Iowa State's Cyclones and Drake's Bulldogs struggled to a 7-7 deadlock.

Thus, in "Vee" Green's first year at the Drake helm, the Bulldogs won six games, lost three and tied one for the best over-all season's record since 1928. In finishing second in the Missouri Valley Conference, the Bulldogs placed three men on the first All-Valley team. Captain Paul Brechler was selected at guard, Jack Potts at quarterback, and Al Weiland at halfback.

Coach Green expressed the optimism which pervaded the Drake student body at the beginning of the 1934 football season. "If the center of the line develops, Drake should have an excellent team."<sup>2</sup> Warren Gaer, later to become head football coach at Drake, captained an all-veteran team, which showed promise of developing into a powerhouse. However, the 1934 record of three wins, six losses and one tie did not resound of power. Injuries, and perhaps an over-ambitious schedule, were primary factors in the relatively poor record. The

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 23, 1933, Vol. 52, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, September 20, 1934, Vol. 52, p. 5.



Times Delphic terms the schedule a "suicide schedule".<sup>1</sup>

By holding the Bulldogs to a 6-6 tie in the first game of the season, the Simpson Redmen proved a harbinger of what was to come later for the Bulldogs. Power-laden Utah came to the Drake Stadium for Drake's second non-conference game and dealt the Bulldogs a 6-0 defeat. Coach Green was impressed by the improved spirit of both the team and the Drake student body. Green said, "The pep shown at the last game is by far the best since I came to Drake. I am very gratified by it."<sup>2</sup>

When she registered a 7-0 victory, Oklahoma A. & M. handed Drake the first of her two conference defeats. Once again the deceptive double wing back offense used by the Aggies kept the Drake team guessing and enabled the Aggies to play deep in Drake territory most of the afternoon. Drake's third defeat at the hands of a powerful team came at West Point, New York, where Drake met Army's Black Knights. This was the first and only time that Drake ever played Army. En route to West Point, the underdog Drake team stopped for practice sessions at Soldiers Field in Chicago and at Albany, New York. As she rolled over Drake, 48-0, Army was led by All-American Frank Buckler and displayed the power and speed which rated them high among eastern teams. Commenting on the game

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 4, 1934, Vol. 53, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



and the team, Coach Green stated, "We were outclassed at West Point, but what I said last week still holds true. We'll get going."<sup>1</sup> One hundred loyal Drake students met the returning Bulldogs at the Rock Island Depot.

In a game played in a heavy rain at Drake Stadium, Drake's first victory, 8-0, came at the expense of Grinnell. At the half time ceremonies, the Old Oaken Bucket was placed on a vaulting pole and with twenty-five Drake women on one end of the pole and twenty-five Grinnell women on the other end, the coveted trophy was carried to an imitation covered well near the north end zone. Green felt that the Bulldogs had played "the best football of the year."<sup>2</sup>

If Drake cherished any hopes of a conference championship, they were destroyed by the Washington Bears at St. Louis. Drake scouts reported that the Bears had their strongest team in twenty years. Washington had not beaten Drake since 1918, and the Bulldogs held a victory string of ten straight wins over the Washington teams. Washington left little doubt as to the better team when they held the Bulldogs scoreless and to no first downs throughout the game.

Although the homecoming game was played in a heavy rain and on a very muddy field, the Bulldogs assured the student

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 18, 1934, Vol. 53, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 25, 1934, Vol. 53, p. 4.



body of a successful homecoming as they registered their second win by defeating the Haskell Indians, 20-7. Drake's next game was perhaps the best of the season. Following the homecoming game, Drake journeyed to Denver where the Denver band and two hundred students met the team at the train. In honor of the team, a fraternity sponsored a large dance; and on Friday before the Saturday game, Drake alumni in the Denver area took the team on a trip through the mountains. Although the Bulldogs played deep in Denver territory throughout the game, they were able to push across only one touchdown. This was not enough to overcome the eight points registered by the Denver team; and, with Denver leading 8-7, the game ended.

With the exception of the defeat by Army, Iowa State inflicted the worst defeat upon the Bulldogs. In a game played at Ames, Iowa, a very strong Cyclone eleven decisively defeated the Bulldogs, 33-12. In another game played on a muddy field, Drake registered her second conference victory by edging past the Creighton Bluejays, 6-0. The defeat prevented Creighton from winning the conference and gave the Bulldogs a third place position. Drake's conference record stood at two victories and two defeats.

Coach "Vee" Green awarded twenty-six major letters to the 1934 Bulldogs. Versil Deskin, end, and My Ubl, quarterback, were chosen on the All-Conference first team.

Butler withdrew from the conference in 1934 thus leaving only five members.



In the fall of 1935, twenty Bulldog lettermen greeted head football coach, "Vee" Green, and assistant coaches, Jack Beynon, Dan Toriello and Jeff Robertson. Accompanying these veterans was "the most outstanding crop of sophomore pigskin toters in years."<sup>1</sup> George Mellinger captained the Drake team, which embarked upon one of "the most colorful schedules in several years."<sup>2</sup> The 1935 coaching staff found themselves in the enviable position of having enough talented men to contest almost every starting position.

Drake student support, as has been explained in earlier yearly resume's was not always as strong as it could have been. During the early games, students were evidently not overly enthusiastic about the 1935 team. After the Central game, the following comment was recorded in the Drake Times Delphic:

We had everything in the Central game but spirit. It is a shame that Drake students can't muster any more enthusiasm over a football team of the caliber that the Bulldogs showed themselves to be Friday night.<sup>3</sup>

My Uble, Drake quarterback, who had transferred to Drake from Minnesota, completed eighteen of twenty-five passes in the 27-0 Drake victory.

In the second game of the season, Wimpy Setrakian, Drake sophomore halfback, led the Bulldogs to a convincing 40-12

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, September 20, 1935, Vol. 54, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 1, 1935, Vol. 54, p. 4.



victory over Simpson. Setrakian gained 142 yards compared to the 160 total yards gained by Simpson in the game. Drake led only 7-6 at the end of the first half. At Columbus, Ohio, in the third game of the season, Drake's victories came to a shocking halt. Ohio State University, with an average weight advantage of twenty-eight pounds to the man, routed the Bulldogs, 85-7. During the first quarter, Drake held the Buckeyes to a 7-7 tie. This was the worst defeat in the history of the school.

Drake next journeyed to Omaha, Nebraska, where they met Creighton, their first Valley opponent. Twelve thousand homecoming enthusiasts watched the Bulldogs, who were rated twenty point underdogs, battle the Bluejays to a 6-6 deadlock. One of the outstanding features of the game was the excellent kicking of My Ubl who, in nine kicking attempts, averaged forty-two yards per punt. Drake returned to Des Moines for her next engagement. Scoring all her points in the first half, Drake defeated the Haskell Indians, 21-0.

In a high scoring contest before sixty-five hundred Drake homecoming fans, the Bulldogs defeated old rival Grinnell, 33-21, thus registering her first and only conference victory of the season. Defending champion, Washington University, handed the Bulldogs their first conference defeat of the 1935 season. At St. Louis, the Bears ground out a 13-0 victory.

Drake's next two ball games ended with very close scores.



In another closely contested game, Drake and Iowa State labored to a 7-7 tie. This game closed the home schedule for the Bulldogs. Drake's next conference opponent was Tulsa who, for the first time, appeared on the Drake schedule. Although allowing the Hurricanes only seven points, the Bulldog offense was very impotent and failed to advance the ball as far as the Tulsa fifteen yard line. The Drake Times Delphic described the game as being a "dull contest featuring but one sustained touchdown drive."<sup>1</sup>

In keeping with the Drake policy of attempting to schedule an intersectional football game for each season, the Bulldogs traveled to the University of Arizona for a Thanksgiving Day game. Arizona, with a line averaging only 182 pounds, featured a fast moving aggregation on that Thanksgiving Day. The Bulldogs were not able to cope with the eighty-five degree heat nor the fast running Arizona backs and went down to a humiliating 53-0 defeat.

Drake finished the season with a record of four wins, four losses and two ties. With a record of one win, two losses and one tie, she finished fourth in the Missouri Valley Conference. Coach "Vee" Green awarded twenty-four varsity letters. My Ubl, Drake quarterback, was elected to the first All-Conference team. On the freshman squad of fifty men was Harold "Pug"

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 20, 1935, Vol. 54, p. 3.



Manders, who in the next three years was to make football history at the Bulldog school.

Ten lettermen and another banner crop of sophomores composed the forty-two man varsity squad that carried the colors for the Blue and White during the 1936 football season. For the first time in history, Drake was led by co-captains. Chuck Orebaugh and Bill Pettit led the Bulldogs to a successful season in which the Drake men won six games and lost four. Because of the splendid group of sophomores and the high caliber of talent embodied in the returning lettermen, enthusiasm ran high once again on the Drake campus. Early season practices, featuring the newly installed double wing back formation with Pug Manders at fullback, indicated that the optimism was well grounded. The Times Delphic said that

Pug Manders, the Moses to carry Drake out of the football darkness, has caught the fancy of Drake followers, and already he is the talk of the town.<sup>1</sup>

Preceding the Simpson game, the Drake students held a huge pep rally. The Peps, girls' cheering organization which had been disbanded in 1934, was reorganized, and, in conjunction with fraternities and sororities, was largely responsible for the revival of school spirit on the Drake campus. Led by Chuck Orebaugh and Pug Manders, the Bulldogs conquered Simpson,

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, September 22, 1936, Vol. 55, p. 4.



52-6. Drake rolled to a total of 556 yards gained during the rout. Coe proved to be no more formidable than the Simpson team. In a game that was supposed to test the might of the Drake team, the score read, Drake 53 and Coe 6. Pug Manders scored four touchdowns. Central, too, felt the might of the Drake team as they succumbed, 44-14. Thus, Drake met little opposition in her first three games.

"We are all wondering if Drake's football team is really as good as it has looked on its three starts this season. Tonight's game with Creighton should tell the story."<sup>1</sup> This statement was found in a pre-game story carried in the Times Delphic. Creighton, Drake's first conference foe, evidently was not awed by the Drake juggernaut because she defeated the Bulldogs, 13-6. Drake's hopes for a Valley championship suffered a fatal blow. Creighton fans tore down the Drake goal posts after the Creighton victory which was the fourth Creighton victory in eleven games between the two schools. During formal half time ceremonies, Drake University paid honor to Lester Sandstrom, promising athlete, and member of the 1935 team, who was killed in a farm accident during the summer of 1936.

Washington's Bears met the Bulldogs in their second conference game. Behind 18-0 with three minutes to go in the first half, Drake scored two quick touchdowns before the half

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 16, 1936, Vol. 55, p. 4.



ended. These two touchdowns plus Chuck Orebaugh's eighty-five yard touchdown run in the second half enabled Drake to score a 20-18 victory. Drake defeated Grinnell, 19-6, for her second conference victory. Because of a steady rain, the game was marred by repeated fumbles by both teams. Despite the condition of the field, Bob Huston punted sensationally for the Bulldogs.

Drake's Golden Jubilee Homecoming game was played with Denver University as the opponent. This was Denver's second appearance on the Drake schedule. Denver was one of the strongest teams in the Rocky Mountain Conference. Despite the brilliant sixty-six yard touchdown run by Drake's Bobby Underwood in the first minute of play, the Bulldogs were no match for the powerful Denver eleven. As the game progressed, injuries kept piling up on the Drake squad until at one time only four regulars were able to play in the game. But for the exceptional punting ability of Bob Huston, who averaged fifty-one yards in each of five punting attempts, the Bulldogs might have gone down to a defeat worse than the 27-13 game ending score.

Following the Denver game, the Drake team suffered successive defeats at the hands of conference winning Tulsa and arch rival Iowa State. After the Denver game, injuries to key personnel on the Drake squad seriously affected the performance of the team.



Tulsa once again had one of the strongest teams in the midwest. She had lost only to Texas Christian. Eighty-five Tulsa students accompanied the team to Des Moines to watch the Hurricanes roll to a 21-6 victory, and a conference championship. The Tulsa game was the final home game for co-captains Bill Pettit, Chuck Orebaugh, Bill Fulton, Ron Hallock and Ralph Luchsinger. By the time the Bulldogs met Iowa State, the injuries and sickness had pared the squad to twenty-six men. Drake was leading at half time for the fourth time of the season, yet went on to lose 21-7.

Thus Drake once again was not deep enough in reserve power to withstand a number of injuries. Consequently, the team beaten by Tulsa and Iowa State was not the same team, personnel wise, which had started the season in such promising fashion.

The Times Delphic approached the matter in the following manner:

The Bulldogs have some of the best athletes available, but they haven't enough of the best. Their reserves are too limited . . . . In Drake's drawing territory, Iowa and surrounding states, hundreds of high schools are turning out gobs of gridgers. Not enough of these men come to Drake . . . . Many are attracted to other schools which can extend large offers for their services . . . . Since Drake does not have lucrative offers, some other means should be devised to attract the cream of the high school crop . . . . Blue and White alumni should be willing to persuade boys to come to Drake . . . . In many instances, alumni are able to offer financial aid to prep



grid stars who are unable to attend college on their own resources . . . . There is no rule prohibiting it.<sup>1</sup>

In her final game of the season, Drake successfully fought off the scoring threats of Washburn and won the game by a score of 18-0. Thus, Drake finished Missouri Valley Conference play with a season's record of three games won and two lost. This record gave Drake third place in the standings. Bud Suter at halfback and Clarence "Pug" Manders at fullback were awarded berths on the first All-Valley team. "Pug" Manders was also awarded the Lester Sandstrom trophy, which was donated by Dr. Channing Smith in honor of the former Drake football player. The award was to be granted each year to the player or players most outstanding at Drake. Recipients were to be judged on value to the team in spirit, ability, leadership, character and scholarship.

"Vee" Green guided the Bulldogs to an eight won and two lost record in 1937. The Bulldogs enjoyed their most successful season under the tutelage of Coach Green during this season. Herb Hedlund, Drake tackle, was elected to the captaincy.

Led by the powerful and fast backfield consisting of "Pug" Manders, Bud Suter, Phil Manders and Bobby Underwood, the Bulldogs began the season in victorious fashion. In the

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 24, 1936, Vol. 55, p. 3.



season's opener, Central fell to the Drake men by a one-sided 47-0 score. Commenting on the team after the game, Green said, "Drake's greatest asset is its team spirit, which is the finest I have seen on any team in many years."<sup>1</sup> Washington, even with Joe Bunkant, one of the midwest's best passers, proved to be no match for the Bulldogs in their initial Valley game. Piling up a total yardage figure of 328, the Blue and White defeated Coach Jimmy Conzelman's Washington Bears, 32-2. Six thousand fans witnessed the contest. The relatively small crowd caused the following comment from the Times Delphic:

One had but to look at the crowd at Friday night's game to realize that Des Moines is a very poor football town. With the caliber of football and the opponents the Bulldogs are playing, it would seem that at least ten thousand should see each of the remaining home games.<sup>2</sup>

Bulldog hopes ran high for a victory against the Irish of Notre Dame at South Bend, Indiana. Bill Williams, scouting for the Drake team, commented in this fashion: "I feel that the Bulldogs may be able to defeat Notre Dame."<sup>3</sup> Bill Luftman expressed the confidence of the team when he said:

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, September 21, 1937, Vol. 56, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, September 28, 1937, Vol. 56, p. 4.

<sup>3</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 1, 1937, Vol. 56, p. 4.



We fellows in a small school get to play about one big game in our lives and we're not going to let this opportunity slip through our fingers. Notre Dame is going to be in for a game.<sup>1</sup>

This statement by Luftman also inferred that Drake had become less ambitious in scheduling several of the nations strongest teams in one season such as the 1927 season in which Pittsburgh, Navy, Minnesota, Notre Dame and U. C. L. A. appeared on the Drake schedule. Even though the Drake team battled the Notre Dame team until the final second, they sustained a 21-0 defeat. This game terminated the football relationship between Drake and Notre Dame. In eight games, the Bulldogs had failed to win a game. They had scored in only three. Seven points was the highest total scored against the Irish in one game. Even though his team lost to Notre Dame, Coach "Vee" Green felt encouraged in regard to the season's outcome. "I was extremely proud of every boy and I predict that our team will be plenty tough to handle the rest of this season."<sup>2</sup>

Only fifteen hundred rain-soaked fans saw the Bulldogs win their second conference game by defeating Washburn, 25-0. Drake rolled to 356 total yards and eighteen first downs in the rout of the Kansas team. Bob Huston, whom Drake enthusiasts were calling one of the best punters in the nation and

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 8, 1937, Vol. 56, p. 4.



who had punted so brilliantly in the 1936 season, averaged forty-five yards per kick during the game. In two conference games, the Bulldogs had amassed a total of thirty-five first downs to their opponents five. Drake registered her third Valley win over Creighton, 9-0. Creighton, coached by former Notre Dame star, Marchie Schwartz, used the Notre Dame box system of offense. Drake employed the double and single wing system as championed by Pop Warner. In three Missouri Valley Conference games, the Bulldogs had outscored their opponents, 66-0.

"Drake Picked to Beat Cyclones Tomorrow"<sup>1</sup> was the headline on the Times Delphic preceeding the Drake vs. Iowa State game. Drake homecoming fans saw this prediction come true as Drake, dominating all phases of the game, humbled the Cyclones, 30-0. This victory was the most convincing Bulldog win registered in the long rivalry between the two schools. Iowa State's most convincing win came in 1914 by a 52-0 score. The homecoming game with Iowa State was played on Saturday afternoon. The twelve thousand who attended was the largest attendance in several years and more than the total registered in three previous 1937 night games. Commenting on this phase of football, the Times Delphic voiced the following opinion:

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 26, 1937, Vol. 56, p. 1.



The heavy schedule of night games is a result of a desire to get as large a crowd as possible to all home games . . . . Total crowd for three night home games preceeding the Iowa State game was hardly more than the crowd for the Iowa State game. Apparently, it is the teams and the weather, not the time of the game which bring the crowd.<sup>1</sup>

As Drake won her fourth consecutive conference victory, forty-two Drake men played in the 45-7 rout registered over the Grinnell Pioneers. Drake dominated the total yardage by 415 yards to 100 for Grinnell. "Vee" Green had yet to lose to a Grinnell team. The Missouri Valley Conference championship was decided when the Tulsa Golden Hurricane met the Drake Bulldog in Drake's final Conference game.

"An eager confident squad is looking forward to the game with Tulsa tomorrow."<sup>2</sup> Displaying a potent passing attack which was directly responsible for four touchdowns, the Tulsa team surprisingly humbled the Bulldogs, 41-9. This game gave Tulsa her third consecutive Valley title and dropped Drake to second place.

In a game played during a snow storm, Coe fell before the Bulldog running attack by a 31-2 score. Features of the game were Bud Suter's eighty-two yard touchdown run with a Coe punt, "Pug" Manders eighty-seven yard touchdown run from scrimmage and Bob Huston's excellent punting, one of which went sixty-eight yards. Drake's final game was played in the

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 2, 1937, Vol. 56, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 5, 1937, Vol. 56, p. 4.



famed Orange Bowl at Miami, Florida. Before nine thousand fans, twenty-three Drake men played in the game between Drake and Miami University. The Bulldogs won, 7-0. Before she was able to score the winning touchdown, Drake drove deeply into Miami territory three times.

"Pug" Manders, fullback, and Captain Herb Hedlund, tackle, were unanimous choices for the All-Missouri Valley Conference team. Bill Luftman, end, was chosen on the 1937 All-American Jewish team. Hedlund and Manders were the recipients of the Lester Sandstrom memorial trophy. Coach "Vee" Green awarded twenty-five varsity letters.

At the end of the 1937 season, Grinnell terminated nineteen years of membership in the Missouri Valley Conference. Her withdrawal was to be effective in June, 1939.

Assisted by Al Wensel and Jeff Robertson, "Vee" Green began his sixth season as Bulldog football coach in 1938. The Bulldog squad of 1938 was not as strong as the 1937 team and could not duplicate the notable eight won and two lost record of 1937. However, the 1938 team did finish the season with a respectable five won, four lost record. Co-captains Phil Manders and Bobby Underwood led the Bulldogs.

Drake began the season by playing two games in one day. Drake had never done this before. Instead of the regulation sixty minutes, each game was forty-eight minutes long. Central and Monmouth were the opponents and both teams were soundly



defeated. Central was beaten, 45-0, and Monmouth, 47-0.

For the Drake team, the initial Conference game with Washington had a disastrous ending. With the Bulldogs leading, 13-12, at the fourth quarter, the rejuvenated Washington Bears scored two touchdowns by passing in the last minutes of the game to register a 25-13 victory. Drake's next game was a non-conference affair with Northwestern at Evanston, Illinois. Drake had not met the Wildcats since 1916 when they were defeated, 40-6. Bulldog forces fared a little better in this contest. The Wildcats scored a convincing 33-0 victory. Drake never advanced the ball beyond the Northwestern eight yard line.

Before the largest home crowd, twelve thousand, of the season, the Drake Bulldogs and the Creighton Bluejays struggled to a 7-7 tie. Drake drove the Bluejays back to their own twenty-one yard line late in the fourth quarter, but the effort failed there and pennant hopes for the Bulldogs suffered a serious blow. Once again going outside the Conference for an opponent, the Bulldogs played host to the Miami Hurricanes. At the Drake homecoming, behind the fine running of Wilbur Harvey who went fifty-seven yards for a touchdown, and the brilliant all around play of "Pug" Manders, the Drake team won a well earned 18-6 triumph. During the game, "Pug" Manders became the father of a baby boy. The 1939 Quax described the game thusly:



Playing the brand of football they were capable of for the first time during the season, the Bulldogs upset previously unbeaten Miami University of Coral Gables, Florida, team.<sup>1</sup>

Drake gained her first Conference victory against hapless Grinnell by a 21-6 score. Grinnell's chances to regain possession of the Old Oaken Bucket disappeared when the Bulldogs pushed across two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. Drake next journeyed to Ames, Iowa, for her annual tilt with the Cyclones. Despite the terrific defensive play by "Pug" Manders and the Drake line, the Cyclones were able to score fourteen points and register a 14-0 victory over the battling Bulldogs. Going into the game, Iowa State had a clean slate of victories. An upset appeared to be a possibility as State led only 2-0 at the half.

Against powerful defending conference champion, Tulsa, the Bulldogs registered the upset of the 1938 season as far as Missouri Valley Conference play was concerned. Since entering the Conference in 1935, the Golden Hurricanes had not been defeated in conference play. Therefore, the convincing 27-7 Drake victory was one of considerable consequence. As for the Bulldogs, the victory enabled them to finish the season with a Conference record of two wins, one loss and one tie for fourth place in the Conference standings.

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<sup>1</sup>Quax 1939, Vol. 38 (Des Moines, Iowa: Drake University, 1939), p. 137.



Seventeen seniors played their last college game for the Blue and White when the Bulldogs fell before New Mexico State University, 20-16, at Las Cruces, New Mexico. Only a tremendous passing exhibition by Eddie Miller, New Mexico's great passer, in the closing minutes of play enabled the southwestern team to defeat the Bulldogs. New Mexico marched seventy-five yards by completing four successive passes for her winning touchdown.

At the conclusion of the season, "Vee" Green awarded thirty varsity letters. To complement the seventeen graduating seniors for the coming 1939 season was a large group of freshmen. Seventy-five men reported for frosh practice at the beginning of the season. Fifty-one survived the season's regors and forty-two were awarded freshman numerals.

"Pug" Manders, fullback, was the only Drake honored on the All-Conference first team. Manders, also, assumed the starring role in two post season games each played in San Francisco, California. Manders participated in the East vs. West Collegiated All-Star game and in the Professional All-Stars vs. the Western Collegiate All-Stars.

Led by co-captains Ned Swan and Thell Fisher, fifty-seven men turned out for football at the start of the 1939 season. This was one of the largest squads in the history of Drake football. From this group, Coach Green fashioned a football team which won five games and lost five.



In an effort to boost the sale of tickets for Drake home games, two thousand season tickets were sold in a city wide drive by Des Moines business men.

Kansas visited the Bulldogs for the first game of the season. Drake rated as underdog before the game delighted ten thousand partisan fans by upsetting the Jayhawks, 12-6. Grinnell, at this time a member of the Midwest Conference instead of the Missouri Valley, went down to a 13-0 defeat at the hands of the Bulldogs. The Times Delphic describes the game as a "listless 13-0 victory over a surprisingly rugged Grinnell team."<sup>1</sup> During the half time ceremonies, Henry Armstrong, world welterweight boxing champion, was presented to the crowd.

Drake's first of five losses came at the hands of the Creighton Bluejays. On several occasions, the Bulldogs were deep in Bluejay territory only to be repulsed. Creighton, on the other hand, took advantage of its only scoring opportunity and scored seven points to defeat the Blue and White, 7-0. Iowa State came to Drake for the 1939 home-coming game. The traditional pre-game feuding between Drake and Iowa State students broke earlier than usual that year. The Times Delphic described the activity in the following comment:

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 10, 1939, Vol. 58, p. 3.



Raiding parties from both schools visited the other's campuses Wednesday and Thursday evenings . . . . Drake stole Iowa State's mascot, a great Dane dog, which was later returned. Iowa State students, thirty or forty strong, invaded Drake painting "Beat Drake" signs on the campus.<sup>1</sup>

The Rock Island Railroad donated a bell named "Old Brassie" which was to go annually to the winning team. Both teams desperately needed a victory for a successful season. Taking the aforementioned conditions into consideration, it is understandable that the Times Delphic should term the game as "the most vicious of any ever played throughout the long rivalry."<sup>2</sup> The only score in the game came in the final quarter when Drake marched from the Iowa State forty-one yard line to score. With the ball resting on the Iowa State six inch line and fourth down, Harry Dickson plunged over the goal line for the winning Bulldog touchdown.

St. Louis University appeared on the Drake schedule for the first time since 1906 when Drake lost, 32-9. However, the 1939 game resulted in a surprising victory for the Bulldogs by a 12-0 score. "Vee" Green used twenty-eight men in the game. St. Louis, who had joined the Valley in 1937, was Drake's first conference victim. Washburn's Ichabods provided the Bulldogs with win number two. Squelching a supposedly dangerous aerial game, the Bulldogs rolled over the Ichabods, 20-7.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 20, 1939, Vol. 58, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 31, 1939, Vol. 58, p. 4.



The Washburn victory was the last of the 1939 season for Drake. The four remaining games on the schedule resulted in decisive losses. The Bulldogs once again traveled to Miami, Florida, for a return game with the Hurricanes. Although the Bulldogs were free from injury and at full strength physically, they were no match for the Florida team. Miami scored in every period and easily garnered a 33-6 victory. Drake's only score came on a fifty-five yard pass play from Olin Hanks to Thell Fisher. Later in the game, Fisher was injured and was lost to the Bulldogs for the remainder of the season. Washington was the Dad's Day opponent for the Bulldogs. Prior to the game, the two teams were tied for first place in the Valley standings. Washington quickly disposed the Bulldog's visions of a championship by mastering the Blue and White, 25-13.

The final Conference defeat for the Bulldogs was administered by Tulsa's powerhouse. Drake outgained the Hurricanes on the ground but were not able to contain the Tulsa air attack and finally went down to a 14-6 defeat. Drake's touchdown was registered by Walt O'Connor on a forty-four yard run. Drake ended Conference play with a record of two wins and three losses. They placed fourth in the Conference. After the Tulsa game, the Bulldogs did not return immediately to Des Moines. Instead, they traveled to the west coast for a game with San Jose State. The game was a charity benefit



staged by the San Jose Elks. Nineteen thousand fans watched the Bulldogs drive into San Jose territory time after time, however, each scoring threat was repulsed at the goal. San Jose State, unbeaten and untied in previous games, pushed over two touchdowns for a 12-0 victory. On the return trip, members of the Drake team enjoyed a two day visit at Grand Canyon, Arizona.

Previous mention has been made of the size of former Drake backfield men. The 1939 backfield was typical, in regard to size, of the backfields which played for Drake during the fourteen years that "Vee" Green coached the Blue and White. Bud Stipe, 188 pounds; Ray Wero, 166 pounds; Harry Dickson, 168 pounds; Maurice White, 155 pounds; Orbin Hanks, 148 pounds; Thell Fisher, 166 pounds; Wilbur Harvey, 152 pounds; Ralph Frank, 164 pounds; Walt O'Connor, 148 pounds, Glen Petersno, 187 pounds.

Ned Swan, center, and Clyde "Bud" Stipe, fullback, were chosen on the All-Missouri Valley Conference team.

With World War II raging in Europe and most of the Bulldog football players having registered for the United States draft, "Vee" Green began his eighth season as head coach of the Blue and White. In the fall of 1940, co-captains Chan Olson and John Kubelius led the Bulldogs to a season's record of four wins and five losses.

Early season work showed that the Bulldogs were



larger and more powerful than in former years. After mauling the freshmen, 74-0, hopes ran high for a successful season. Drake's first two games seemed to indicate that the Bulldogs might once again be a power in the Conference. Montana State was an easy 46-0 victim of the Drake power. However, the Montana school had been hit hard by the draft. Previous to the beginning of the season, seven of their first team had been drafted. While Drake advanced the ball 623 yards, Montana netted only seventeen yards by rushing. The Drake Times Delphic spoke of the Drake victory in the following manner: "The widely heralded Drake line lived up to advance notices by opening crater like holes for the Bulldog backs."<sup>1</sup> Drake's second non-Conference opponent, Grinnell, entered the game riding the crest of an eight game winning streak. Nevertheless, Drake was highly favored to win. Gene Moore, Drake passer, completed eleven passes in fourteen attempts and the Drake team scored a 20-7 victory over surprisingly strong Grinnell.

Kansas University stopped Drake's offense and defeated the Bulldogs, 20-6, at Lawrence, Kansas. In the first two games of the season, Gene Moore had completed eighteen of twenty-three attempted passes for a total of 248 yards.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 1, 1940, Vol. 59, p. 4.



However, the strong Kansas line, dominating the supposedly invincible Drake forward wall, rushed Moore so skillfully that six of his twenty-seven pass attempts were intercepted. A strong Navy team was next to defeat the Bulldogs. As twenty-two thousand football followers looked on, the Middies defeated the game Drake team, 19-0. That was the first game between the two schools since the 1927 game. To wear down the Drake team, Coach Swede Larson of Navy used first and second teams alternately. Statistically, the Middies enjoyed a great advantage. They ground out 314 yards to the Bulldogs thirty-eight.

St. Louis came to Drake for the Drake homecoming game. Both teams were seeking their first Valley win. At this stage of the season, Walt O'Connor, Drake halfback, led the nation in pass receiving. The Billikins proved too strong for the Bulldogs and defeated the, 21-0. The Times Delphic spoke of the game in the following manner: "The Billikins, hopped up by Coach Dukes Duford, left little to be desired. They ripped into and around the Drake forward wall to gain yardage almost at will."<sup>1</sup> Drake gained her first Conference victory of the season with a 19-6 triumph over Washburn.

As they prepared to meet the Cyclones from Iowa State, the Bulldogs were at full strength for the first time since

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 29, 1940, Vol. 59, p. 4.



the opening game. The following statement concerning the game appeared in the Drake Times Delphic:

Alumni of both schools who have had cause to express frequent dissatisfaction at their teams' showings, are willing to accept victory in the contest as an appeasement measure for past losses . . . . Drake, Iowa State games have never been won on form charts, and there's no indication that this one will.<sup>1</sup>

Iowa State won the game by the narrow margin of an extra point. Drake's extra point kick attempted by Todd Switzer, hit the cross bar and bounded back into the playing field, and Iowa State emerged with a 7-6 win. Co-captain John Kubelius, Jay Cox, Willie Nessen, and Bill Gavin of Drake played the entire game.

For their second Conference win, Drake defeated Washington, 20-14. The Bulldogs were able to defeat the Washington team, but they were not able to throttle the passing of Washington's Bud Schwenk who gained 218 yards on fourteen completed passes. Ironically enough, the winning touchdown was scored by Drake tackle, John Kubelius, who stole the ball from Schwenk's hand as he attempted to pass. Kubelius then ran seventy-six yards for the touchdown. Walt O'Connor also registered a long touchdown run when he intercepted a Schwenk pass and ran sixty-five yards to the goal.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 8, 1940, Vol. 59, p. 4.



A Parent's Day crowd of six thousand saw the Bulldogs lose their second Conference game to Creighton by a 14-0 score. Drake was unable to stop the running and passing of Creighton's triple threat halfback, Johnny Knolla. The loss to Creighton gave the Bulldogs a record of two games won and two lost. This placed the team in fourth place in the Missouri Valley Conference standings.

No Bulldogs made the first All-Valley team in 1940.

Fourteen lettermen led by Leonard "Bud" Adams and Bill Nessen formed the nucleus of the 1941 Drake football squad which met "Vee" Green at the beginning of his ninth season as head mentor of the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs finished this season with four wins, five losses and one tie.

St. Ambrose proved to be no match for the Drake men. They went down to a 21-6 defeat. However, Drake's second game was with a more formidable opponent. For the first time since 1910, the Bulldogs played the State University of Iowa. Twenty thousand fans saw the Bulldogs lead the Hawkeyes, 8-6 at the half. In the second half, Iowa's strong reserve strength took its toll on the Bulldog line and Iowa surged to a 25-8 victory.

Drake and Grinnell met for their forty-eighth game. Although hard pressed, Drake managed to score an 8-0 victory over the Pioneers. Thus, the Bulldogs entered Missouri Valley play with a non-Conference record of two wins and one loss.



Drake met St. Louis in her Missouri Valley Conference opening game. A thirty yard pass from Bud Vincent to Herman Harvey enabled the Bulldogs to register a 6-6 tie with the St. Louis team. Preceeding the game with the Billikins, the following Drake lineup appeared in the Times Delphic:

Raves, 190 pounds, left end; Neesen, 200 pounds, left tackle; Fitzsimmons, 180 pounds, left guard; Arneson, 180 pounds, center; Adams, 190 pounds, right guard; Michna, 210 pounds, right tackle; Burton, 186 pounds, right end; Pearson, 170 pounds, quarterback; Vincent, 152 pounds, right halfback; Harvey, 152 pounds, left halfback; Frank, 175 pounds, fullback.<sup>1</sup>

It is interesting to note that the 1941 line outweighed the 1914 line, as presented on page 57 by approximately fifteen pounds to the man. The differential in the backfield is only about half that of the line differential.

Drake's second loss of the season came at the hands of the University of Illinois. Although the Illini had lost to Minnesota, 34-6, on the previous Saturday, they had little trouble in dominating the Bulldogs. Once again Big Ten manpower proved too much for the Bulldogs and the Illini rolled to a 40-0 triumph. Creighton handed the Bulldogs their first Valley loss, a bruising 12-7 defeat. Until the last two minutes of the game, Drake led the Bluejays, 7-6. Ironically, it was Creighton halfback, Tony Porto, a Des Moines boy, whose home was only a mile from Drake, who scored the

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 12, 1941, Vol. 60, p. 4.



winning Bluejay touchdown on a six inch plunge. In discussing the game, the Times Delphic paid the following compliment to the Drake line:

At Creighton, Saturday, the seven man defense employed by the Bulldogs had the famed Bluejay's "T" stopped cold. The Drake line hasn't looked better all fall than at Omaha.

After having played on opponent's fields during the three previous weekends, the Bulldogs returned to Drake Stadium for a game with the Washington Bears. Washington, led by their exceptional passer, Bud Schwenk, downed the Bulldogs, 12-0. Despite the muddy field on which the game was played, Washington scored within three minutes after the opening kickoff. At home again for the Iowa State Teachers College game, the Drake's gained a 13-0 victory. The game was featured by the running of Drake's 160 pound halfbacks, Herm Harvey and Bud Vincent. Drake's defense ~~was sorely tested~~ in this game. On five occasions, the Panthers were within the Drake twenty yard line.

Homecoming in 1941 was a successful one for the Bulldogs. While under the command of "Vee" Green, Drake had not lost to an Iowa State team at home. Under Green, the Drake men had won three games and had tied the Cyclones twice at Drake Stadium. Although each team had experienced only mediocre success during the season, a typical hard fought,

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 28, 1941, Vol. 60, p. 4.



close game, which was so characteristic of previous games, again occurred in 1941. Coming from behind, the Bulldogs overtook the Cyclones and scored a 14-13 triumph. Maurice "Whizzer" White scored both Drake touchdowns. "Bud Adams was the hero of the day. His sparkling play in the Bulldog front wall led the Blue and White to victory,"<sup>1</sup> commented the Times Delphic.

In the last game of the season for the Bulldogs, Tulsa, seeking consecutive win number six and her third consecutive Missouri Valley Conference title, defeated the Bulldogs, 20-6. Despite the rain and snow swept field, Glenn Dobbs, Tulsa's great halfback, was too talented for the Bulldogs.

Drake finished last in Conference standings with a record of no wins, three losses, and one tie. Drake had not finished in last place since 1917. Captain Leonard Adams, Drake guard, was selected to the All-Conference team.

Even though the nation was at war and many schools had abandoned football, Drake continued to play interscholastic competition in 1942. Freshmen were declared eligible for varsity competition by the Missouri Valley Conference. Consequently, forty-two men, mostly freshmen, reported for football practice in 1942. Don Dillon was

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 18, 1941, Vol. 60, p. 4.



captain of the team during Drake's first year under World War II restrictions. Playing with probably the youngest team in Drake football history, the Bulldogs finished the season with a three won and seven lost record.

Despite the 32-0 victory over Central in the opening game, Coach "Vee" Green was not satisfied with the play of the Bulldogs. "Poor downfield blocking, sloppy ball handling, and the defensive line play wasn't rugged enough,"<sup>1</sup> commented the coach after the game. In Drake's second home game of the season, St. Ambrose downed the green Drake team, 12-6. Drake's air game was not effective, and with the exception of a forty-one yard touchdown run by Einar Johnson, the Bulldogs found little satisfaction in the game.

The passing of Bud Vincent enabled Drake to score a close 7-6 victory over Grinnell. At the half, Drake was behind, 6-0, and only a touchdown and a perfect extra point kick by halfback Clint Stille saved the day for Drake. The victory marked Drake's eleventh consecutive victory over the Pioneers. Once again the Bulldogs met St. Louis in the first Valley game of the season. Drake went into the game as the underdog. However, the sensational ninety-four yard touchdown run with the opening kickoff by Einar Johnson sent the Bulldogs off to a rapid start and they went on to

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, September 23, 1942, Vol. 61, p. 4.



a 19-9 victory. When he ran forty-eight yards with an intercepted pass, Joe Saggione, Drake lineman, also scored a touchdown for Drake.

In a surprisingly easy manner, the Bulldogs registered a 28-0 victory over old rival, Iowa State. This was Drake's last victory of the season. Creighton came to Drake for homecoming and the continuance of a very evenly matched rivalry. The two teams had previously met sixteen times. Drake had won eight, lost seven and tied one with the Blue-jays. Creighton, using the "T" as championed by Coach Skip Palrang, "displayed a diversified attack of running and passing which quite bewildered the home team."<sup>1</sup> Creighton's 33-14 victory was one of the most one-sided scores in the history of the series between the two schools.

Tulsa's powerful team next visited Drake Stadium. In commenting on the coming game, the Times Delphic said, "Drake's battered and bewildered Bulldogs will play host Friday to the Golden Hurricane of Tulsa, powerhouse of the Missouri Valley and one of the nation's greatest teams."<sup>2</sup> Tulsa once again led by All-American Glenn Dobbs had not been scored upon in five straight games. For the only game of the season, Drake failed to score while the Tulsa jugger-

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 29, 1942, Vol. 62, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 4, 1942, Vol. 61, p. 4.



naut was amassing forty points. This was Drake's worst defeat at the hands of the Tulsans.

Drake's next defeat was inflicted by Iowa State Teacher's College in a game played at Cedar Falls. Featuring a powerful running attack, the Panthers, whom Coach Starbeck described as potentially his greatest, humbled the Bulldogs, 27-12. Traveling to Washington, the Bulldogs sustained their third Conference defeat by a 14-7 score. Preceding the game, Drake had been tied with Washington and St. Louis for fifth place in the Conference. Although it looked as if Drake might have a chance to regain some of her early season prestige, costly fumbles caused the attempt for victory to fail.

Drake had won all four previous games with Oklahoma A. & M. However, she entered the 1942 game between the two schools as a decided underdog. The underdog label was not a misnomer as the 55-12 A. & M. victory bore witness. A. & M. gained 325 yards by rushing against the Bulldogs.

Drake's one win and four Conference losses ranked her in a tie with Creighton for fifth place in Conference standings. No Drake men were picked on the All-Valley team.

The national draft had affected the football program at Drake severely in 1942, but the situation in 1943 was very acute. Drake, with a total college enrollment of only seven hundred students, was able to field a squad numbering only



twenty-five men. These men were primarily inexperienced freshmen. Only two men had ever played college football. Clark Mollenhoff, who captained the team, and Don Welcher were the experienced men. Ten of the candidates were seventeen years old, seven were 4F, and three were ineligible for the draft. The line averaged 187 pounds and the backfield, 158. Yet "Vee" Green, with no assistant coach, kept the sport alive and Drake played a six game schedule. Although the big name teams of former years did not appear on the schedule, the competition was very formidable because of the Navy personnel which participated for Drake's opponents. New football opponents were Western Illinois Teachers, Doane and William Jewell. Drake finished the season with a very creditable four won and two lost record.

Twenty-five hundred fans witnessed the first game of the season between Central and Drake. With tackle Emmanuel "Muggsy" Migliorisi leading the way, Drake downed the Central team, 14-6. Central, loaded with Naval trainee personnel, was the favored team; and Drake's victory registered as an upset. Western Illinois Teachers College was the next victim of the Bulldogs. Like Drake, Western fielded an all-civilian team. The Times Delphic describes the game in the following manner: "The Drake Relays came early this year as the Bulldogs transformed Friday night's game into a track meet with an over-



whelming 50-0 victory."<sup>1</sup>

Another small crowd of only seventeen hundred watched the Bulldogs register victory number three over Missouri Valley College by a 19-7 score. Drake's surprising fourth victory came at the expense of William Jewell College. William Jewell, boasting a powerful team of Navy trainees, outweighed the Drake squad thirteen pounds per man. Only thirty-two hundred fans visited Drake Stadium as the Bulldogs garnered a 27-19 upset. At this time, Drake was the only squad of the sixteen unbeaten teams in the nation without Navy personnel.

Drake's only road trip of the season was to Crete, Nebraska, where a formidable Navy team once again confronted the Bulldogs. Doane, which normally did not play competition of Missouri Valley caliber, was exceptionally strong this year. Both teams went into the game with an undefeated record. Doane's heavy line was able to contain Drake's light backs, Del Cockayne and Keith Perrin. Consequently, the Drake men met their first defeat by a 12-6 score.

Although the caliber of football played by the green Drake team of 1943 was not as highly perfected as in many former years, there was no lack of enthusiasm on the part of either the small student body or the team. Preceding the

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 2, 1943, Vol. 62, p. 3.



homecoming game with Iowa State, the following compliment to the tenacity of the Bulldogs appeared in the Delphic:

Better football elevens in the nation there may be, but even the best can't beat "Vee" Green's aggregation in spirit and fight. They really display true Bulldog nature on the football field.<sup>1</sup>

Several victory records were broken when the Bulldogs fell before the Cyclones, 20-0, at Drake Stadium. This game was the first victory that Iowa State had registered against Drake on the Drake field in seventeen years. Previous to this victory, the Cyclones had not beaten a "Vee" Green coached team on the home field. The annual Drake vs. Iowa State football clashes had normally averaged from eight to ten thousand fans, but in this war year, only forty-seven hundred attended the game.

Only three Missouri Valley Conference teams participated in football. Consequently, no Valley champion was declared. Drake did not play a Valley opponent.

As Coach "Vee" Green began his twelfth season at the Bulldog helm, prospects for a successful season appeared much better than in 1943. Despite the draft and the uncertainties of wartime education, forty-four candidates, including nine lettermen, reported for fall practice. In 1944, once again Green coached the team without the assistance

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 11, 1943, Vol. 62, p. 4.



of another coach. The Bulldog record of seven victories and two defeats was, with the exception of the 8-2 record in 1937, the best record registered by a Drake team in Green's fourteen years as head football coach.

Once again Drake was faced with the nemesis of meeting opponents who were heavily manned by naval training personnel. Cornell, the first Drake opponent, was one of those power laden teams. Cornell had previously beaten a strong Iowa Seahawk team by a 26-6 score and was heavily favored to defeat the Bulldogs. However, the Bulldogs running from the "T" formation, and featuring such fast backs as Del Cockayne, Bobby Clark, and Frank Weik easily defeated the Cornell team, 27-0. Gustavus Adolphus was the second victim of the speedy Drake squad. The Gusties and Drake played each other twice in 1944. Drake won the first game, played in Des Moines, by a 25-14 score. Drake scored her third consecutive victory of the season at Topeka, Kansas. Going into the game as a heavy favorite, the Drake team rolled over the Washburn squad, 26-6.

Once again the Bulldogs defeated Gustavus Adolphus to remain in the select group of undefeated teams in the nation. The spectacular running and passing of Del Cockayne provided a 14-2 victory over the hapless Gusties, and Drake won its fourth straight game. At the 1944 Drake homecoming, Doane College suffered a convincing 59-0 defeat at the hands of



the Drake team. The Bulldogs gained revenge for the 12-6 defeat handed them by Doane in 1943. The Times Delphic had predicted a Drake victory. "On the basis of their unblemished record, the Bulldogs rate at least a two touchdown favorite over the visiting Tigers."<sup>1</sup> The Drake victory was followed by an illegal skip day by the Drake student body.

Drake kept her record unblemished by defeating St. Olaf, 26-13. Only twenty teams were unbeaten and untied at this time. The St. Olaf game was the most difficult thus far in the season. The score was 13-13 at the half. Del Cockayne scored his eleventh touchdown of the season. This touchdown placed him in a tie for third in the nation in scoring. The average weight of the Drake line was 189 pounds. The backfield averaged 165 pounds. On the St. Olaf roster was Jerry St. Clair who played tackle for the Bulldogs in 1941.

Drake's last home game of the season resulted in a rousing 31-0 victory for the Bulldogs. Even with Navy V-12 athletes, the Missouri Valley College team was no match for the spirited Bulldogs.

Drake's perfect record suffered its first blemish as a result of a bruising defeat at Iowa State. State, reportedly having one of its greatest teams, finally downed the

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 26, 1944, Vol. 63, p. 4.



game Drake men, 9-0. After a 0-0 first half, two Drake miscues cost the Blue and White a victory. A bad center pass over the head of the Drake punter gave the Cyclones two points. The Cyclone touchdown was the result of a Drake kickoff of only fifteen yards.

In Wichita, who appeared on the schedule for the first time, Drake met its only all-civilian team of the season. Drake was confident of victory. Perhaps the Bulldogs were a little too confident. Typifying the feeling which permeated the Drake campus was the following statement by the Times Delphic: "Unless a Kansas dust storm blows up suddenly, Coach "Vee" Green's charges expect little trouble from Wichita on Thanksgiving Day."<sup>1</sup> Wichita, displaying surprising strength, stopped Drake's ground game, and the Bulldog passing game was not functioning properly; consequently, the Wheatshockers scored a 13-12 upset victory.

As in 1943, no Valley Champion was declared and no All-Valley team was picked. Del Cockayne scored eighty-four points in the season.

A saddening note of the otherwise successful season was the death of Drake's bulldog mascot, "Butch". The dog had been the Drake mascot since 1936.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 21, 1944, Vol. 63, p. 3.



A forty-three man squad greeted Coach "Vee" Green at the first practice session of the 1945 season. Del Cockayne and Ralph Gruben co-captained the Bulldogs in their first peacetime season since 1941. Only four lettermen remained from the 1944 team. With wartime eligibility rules still in effect, freshmen were still eligible for varsity competition. Several armed forces veterans returned to the Drake campus, and the Drake football squad was bolstered by their age and experience. Drake, playing a rugged schedule, finished the season with a five won, four lost and one game tied record.

Drake began the season with a convincing 40-13 victory over a heavy Kearney Nebraska Air Base eleven. On the first play for Drake, Del Cockayne ran sixty-seven yards for a touchdown. Attendance at Drake game, reaching a low ebb during the war, did not show any noticeable sign of becoming better at the Drake vs. Kearney game. According to the Times Delphic, "Student attendance at the recent Drake, Kearney contest was far from encouraging, in fact, downright disappointing."<sup>1</sup>

Drake, playing a Missouri Valley schedule once again, traveled to Tulsa where they were handed a 19-9 defeat by the power laden Golden Hurricane, who were rated the second

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 11, 1945, Vol. 64, p. 3.



best football team in the nation. Although Drake did not advance the ball beyond the Tulsa thirteen yard line, Drake was not decisively defeated until the waning moments of the game. At this point, the Hurricanes pushed over two touchdowns. In regard to yardage gained from scrimmage, Tulsa completely dominated the Bulldogs. Tulsa gained 313 yards to Drake's twenty-eight yards.

Although ahead only 6-0 at the half, Drake forged ahead in the last quarter of the South Dakota State game to register a 34-0 victory. Drake's next home contest was played with Denver University. This was the third time that the two schools had met. Drake was forced to overcome a 13-6 half time deficit to gain a 19-19 tie with the Denver team. Attendance at the game was an important item for discussion by the editors of the Times Delphic. The following comment sheds very realistic light upon the situation which faced Drake's football in future years:

What about Drake football in 1945. Just this. Drake wants to play big time football now that the war is over and things are slowly returning to normal. Tomorrow night Drake reaches the "Crisis" in its fight for recognition as a major collegiate football team. The Bulldogs want to play top-ranking midwest elevens here at Drake Stadium next year to give Des Moines football fans a taste of high class college football. But such "Big Time" games cost money, lots of it . . . . In order to spend money, an organization must also make money. Unless this year's Drake home games draw good crowds, there can be no hope of playing major teams here in the future.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 18, 1945, Vol. 64, p. 4.



Detroit University appeared on the Drake schedule for the first time in 1945. Before ten thousand Detroit fans, the Titans defeated Drake, 19-14. The most spectacular play of the game came when Drake's Emmanuel Migliorisi stole the ball from the arms of a Detroit back and ran twenty-two yards for a touchdown. In taking to the road once again, the Bulldogs met St. Louis University in their second Valley game. St. Louis entered the game with a 3-1 record and heavily favored to defeat Drake. However, the Bulldogs, playing inspired ball, "rocked the Missourians back on their heels from the very outset with savage tackling which resulted in seven Billiken fumbles."<sup>1</sup> Drake won, 25-0.

Iowa State Teachers proved to be inadequate to the task and fell easily to the fast charging Bulldogs, 53-6. With the exception of the 50-0 romp over the Panthers in 1900, the 1945 score was the most one-sided in the history of football competition between the two schools. For the second time in his Drake coaching career, the team of "Vee" Green lost a homecoming game to Iowa State. As on several other occasions, the Bulldogs and Cyclones entered the contest with mediocre records. Iowa State had a 3-3-1 record and Drake a 4-3 record. However, regardless of the season's records, the annual tussel between the friendly rivals was

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 28, 1945, Vol. 64, p. 3.



was always one of surprises and bitterly contested games. The 1945 encounter proved no exception to the rule as far as excitement and hard play were concerned. Iowa State scored eight points in the first quarter. Drake was not able to overcome the lead and, even though they pushed across one touchdown in the final quarter, the Bulldogs lost, 8-6.

Wichita began Missouri Valley Conference competition in 1945. For the second year, in a close ball game, the Wheatshockers took the measure of the Drake squad, 19-13. Drake led, 13-0, going into the fourth quarter. However, in the form of two fumbles and a blocked punt, disaster struck the Blue and White. As a result of these Drake errors, the Wichita team scored three touchdowns in a four minute period. Thus, Drake ended its play in the Missouri Valley with a record of one game won and two games lost. They ranked in fourth position in the official league standings. Ralph Gruben was selected at guard on the All-Missouri Valley Conference team.

Drake met Fresno State College in the annual Raisin Bowl at Fresno, California, on January 1, 1946. This was Drake's first post-season bowl game. Drake entered the game with a 4-4-1 record and Fresno State had a 4-5-2 record. Because Drake was forced to drill in sub-zero weather, the Bulldogs entered the game as the underdog. The game was witnessed by ten thousand people. Drake scored an early



touchdown but failed to score the extra point. Fresno State came back to score a touchdown in the second quarter and once again the extra point try was not successful. The first half ended in a 6-6 deadlock. Both teams scored a touchdown in the final half, and Jim Baer's successful extra point kick provided the Bulldogs with a 13-12 victory.

With the exception of football, Drake University enjoyed one of its most successful years in 1946 in almost all phases of its school life. Drake enjoyed an enrollment of four thousand students, which was her largest enrollment thus far in history. With the great number of returning veterans, many athletes returned to the campus and a large group turned out for football. Charles McDowell and Clint Stille were elected co-captains for the Bulldogs who finished the season with a record of two wins, six losses and one tie.

The 1946 season marked the end of an era in Drake football. At the conclusion of the season, "Vee" Green resigned his position as head coach to enter into a private business career. Green coached the Bulldogs fourteen years. Under his tutelage, they won sixty-six games, lost fifty-nine and tied eight.

Drake's first two games of the season did not portend the disaster which was to strike the Bulldog team in later games. St. Ambrose fell before the Bulldogs, 26-13 at Drake Stadium, and then the Bulldogs journeyed to El Paso, Texas,



for a game with Texas Mines. This was the first appearance for the Miners on the Drake schedule. This also marked the first game in three years for the Texas school which had dropped football during the war years. Nevertheless, the Miners were favored over the Drake men. Drake's traveling squad numbered twenty-seven men. Playing in the famous Sun Bowl before fifteen thousand fans, Drake registered a surprising 7-2 upset over the Miners. Drake's touchdown came in the second quarter as a result of a fifty-seven yard run by Bobby Clark.

Returning to Des Moines with two wins to their credit, the Bulldogs entertained Tulsa's powerful eleven before thirteen thousand Des Moines fans. The Golden Hurricane, displaying a strong line which averaged 204 pounds to the man and a fast backfield, swept the Bulldogs aside by a 48-13 score. Tulsa went on to win the Valley championship. Drake's badly crippled ball club, first team men Jim McLaren, Carl Varner and Bob Vaughn missed the game because of injuries, lost their second game of the season to Wichita, 21-6. With less than a minute to play in the fourth quarter, Wichita scored the winning touchdown.

Drake's pass defense broke down in the sixtieth homecoming game against St. Louis University. In what the Times Delphic termed a "dismal close to the home season,"<sup>1</sup> the

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 23, 1946, Vol. 65, p. 3.



Billikens downed the Bulldogs, 27-6. The Drake student body was disappointed in the team's showing. After the homecoming game, criticism of the team appeared in the Times Delphic editorials. Throughout the years, adverse criticism of the team by the Delphic had seldom appeared. In the October twenty-third issue of the Delphic, the following statement appeared:

We do not profess to know exactly what was wrong with our team, nor do we deny that our apathetic student body may be partially to blame. We do know that our team lost and that it seemed that some players did much only to have their efforts counteracted by the lethargy of others . . . . Weak links hurt a team . . . . The football players themselves know whether the man next to them is feigning or fighting . . . . Our suggestion is that the football team, itself, do some housecleaning after homecoming.<sup>1</sup>

Drake once again took to the road and traveled to Detroit to face the rugged Titans. Detroit had one of her greatest teams in 1946. Perhaps the Times Delphic presented the situation that confronted Drake in the Motor City as well as could be expressed in the following quotation:

If past records are to be acknowledged, the score should run into three figures . . . . Detroit did everything but make Tulsa eat the ball last Friday when they defeated the Oklahomans, 20-14. This is the same Tulsa outfit that made Drake look like a Sunday School playing Notre Dame.<sup>2</sup>

Pre-game predictions proved correct. Drake was humbled,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



33-6. Drake was not able to contain the powerful Detroit running game nor could she generate a sustained scoring drive of her own.

Drake's student body, as was stated previously, was unhappy with the team's showing. The same condition had existed in former years when the Bulldogs found themselves involved in a losing season. Drake, losing by very decisive scores in her last four games, had lost the support of the student body. In an effort to revive school spirit, the Times Delphic campaigned for better student following of the team. Although itself critical of the showing of the team, the Times Delphic nevertheless was willing to face the situation with an open mind and, also, placed much of the responsibility for the team's demise upon the student body. Preceding the annual game with Iowa State, the following article appeared in the school paper:

The Times Delphic is not discouraged with the recent showing of Drake's football team, but it is disgusted with the "lethargic" student body. Yes, the term "lethargic" can be applied to the apathetic student body at large much better than it can to the team.<sup>1</sup>

The Bulldogs had not beaten the Cyclones at Ames since the 7-0 win in 1929. Recovering a fumble on the Iowa State thirty-four yard line, the Bulldogs pulled away to a 7-0

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 1, 1946, Vol. 65, p. 3.



lead and held it until the final twelve seconds of the game. On their final running attempt, the Cyclones crossed the Drake goal and managed a 7-7 tie.

In 1945, Drake defeated Iowa State Teachers College, 53-6. The 1946 Panthers dealt swift and sure revenge for the devastating 1945 defeat at the hands of the Bulldogs. At the end of the game, the Panthers had gained 393 yards to Drake's eight and had inflicted a 46-0 defeat upon the "hopelessly outclassed Bulldogs."<sup>1</sup> This was the worst defeat that Drake ever felt at the hands of Iowa State Teachers College.

Oklahoma A. & M. dealt Drake its worst defeat of the season when the Aggies ran and passed to a 59-7 victory over the luckless Bulldogs.

Drake finished the 1946 season with no victories and four defeats in Missouri Valley competition. She finished last in the Conference. For the second time, Ralph Gruben was chosen at a guard position on the All-Missouri Valley Conference team.

The 1946 season was not an ordinary season as far as football at Drake University was concerned. Even in the early days when football, as a game, was being criticized for its roughness, uncouthness and dangerousness, the

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 20, 1946, Vol. 65, p. 4.



criticism was not turned toward the players and coaches as in the 1946 season. Seldom did the student body express themselves on matters regarding athletic policy as freely as they did in 1946. The Times Delphic, which may be regarded as the thermometer of student opinion, ran the following editorial, entitled "Football or Not." This editorial gave an idea of the nature of student opinion in 1946.

With the 1946 football season put away in the record books, the Athletic Department has turned to the formation of a 1947 schedule which, according to rumors, is just as tough as this year's. Along this line, the Times Delphic has two alternative suggestions to offer.

In the first place, we suggest that in setting up the 1947 schedule, teams notorious as powerhouses be avoided.

We suggest that the Athletic Department start over from scratch in building up Drake as a football school by playing smaller schools.

A record such as the 1946 one might turn any high school or service football stars who are planning for college against Drake. Final choice of a school may not be determined by the past season's football scores but the prospective football player would probably like to go to a school where he doesn't have to hang his head low when he admits, "I'm a football player."

A notable attempt has been made to build up a nationwide football reputation by scheduling games with nationally known football schools, not for the expectation of putting up a good fight. So far, the good fight, as evidenced by close scores, has not been forthcoming. Even Drake's Iowa reputation took a beating along with the team at Iowa State Teacher's hands.

As an alternative, we suggest that football be taken off the sports roster altogether. Drake is first, last, and always a track school. Inch for inch, the football team probably gets more publicity than any other sport,



but inch for inch, track gets more favorable publicity for Drake than any other sport.

Student interest and support during the past season lagged to a new low. Since the GI's make up two thirds of the student body, we turned to them for their reaction. One of them summed up the situation rather logically we thought when he said: "As far as school spirit goes, we're here for an education, not to play. We're willing to blow about a winning team and not ashamed to crack wise about a losing one."

This attitude, if applicable to spectators, it seems to us could be applied to GI players, too. In the old days, a fellow had to play football and good football in order to stay in school on his athletic scholarship. Uncle Sam's footing the bill has relieved the Athletic Department's scholarship fund, but hasn't done much toward building up team unity and loyalty.

The Times Delphic realizes that football teams have good seasons and bad seasons. Perhaps this was the good season for six of Drake's opponents. Perhaps we're being defeatist in making our suggestions. But defeatist or not, right or wrong, we'd like to have your reaction to the above proposals.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, December 6, 1946, Vol. 65, p. 2.



## CHAPTER V

### POST-WAR FOOTBALL

Drake coached by Al Kawal. "Vee" Green was succeeded as head football coach at Drake University by Al Kawal who greeted fifty-nine football candidates in the fall of 1947. Freshmen were still eligible for varsity competition. Jerry St. Clair and Wally Rooker co-captained the team which won one game, lost seven and tied one. The overall record of one win, seven losses and one tie by the 1947 Bulldogs was the worst won and lost record of any football team in the history of the school. Much of the lack of success may be attributed to inexperience upon the part of the predominately freshman squad.

By defeating the Drake team, 19-7, Texas Mines gained revenge for the 7-2 defeat at the hands of the Bulldogs in 1946. Nine thousand Des Moines spectators watched the Bulldogs, employing the wing "T" offense, fumble their way to their first of seven defeats. Texas Mines scored its first two touchdowns on pass plays. The third came as a result of a blocked Bulldog kick. Drake's only touchdown came on a pass from Don Sweet to Tom Bienemann. Bienemann was to go on from here to become one of Drake's all time great ends. Only he ever gained the distinction of being chosen on the first All-Valley team for four successive years. No other player



from any Missouri Valley Conference school ever gained that distinction.

For the first time since 1922, Colorado A. & M. appeared on the Drake schedule. Twenty fumbles marred the game played before a Dad's day crowd in Drake Stadium. Drake was behind, 23-7, at the half; but even though losing, 23-19, fought back to salvage considerable respectability during the second half. Tulsa, on her way to Missouri Valley Conference title number nine, had little trouble in handing the Bulldogs their third defeat of the season. The highly rated Golden Hurricane defeated Drake, 28-14. Wichita was the second Conference opponent for the Bulldogs. Despite the pass receiving of Tom Bienemann, who, at this time, ranked second in the nation as a pass receiver; and an eighty-two yard touchdown run by Jim McLeran, Drake end, the Bulldogs fell once again to the Shockers by a 13-7 score.

At St. Louis, the Bulldogs lost to the St. Louis Billikens, 41-12. This game was one of the first to be televised in the midwest. A highlight of the St. Louis homecoming affair was a seventy yard touchdown run by Drake's Bobby Clark. After the St. Louis game, Bulldog game statistics revealed that in its last three games, Drake had gained 333 yards by rushing and had lost 348 yards by penalties.

When Drake defeated Oklahoma A. & M., 13-9, Drake



Stadium was the scene of one of the 1947 football season's most heralded upsets. The aggies starting lineup was composed of all lettermen. The line weighed 211 pounds to the man and the backfield averaged 187 pounds to the man. Over a two year period, Drake had lost eleven consecutive games. Drake had not beaten an Oklahoma A. & M. team since 1930.

The Times Delphic described the game as follows:

Determination and the highest of team spirit finally paid off. Beaten but never outfought for five weeks, a gallant band of Bulldogs got its just reward last Friday night at the Stadium by outclassing powerful Oklahoma A. & M., 13-9.<sup>1</sup>

Iowa State Teachers College, sporting a twenty-four game winning streak, came to Drake. Playing in heavy mud, the Teachers maintained a six point lead throughout most of the game. With two minutes of playing time remaining in the fourth quarter, Drake's Tom Bienemann caught a fourth down touchdown pass and the Bulldogs salvaged a 6-6 tie.

Even though the Bulldogs were not enjoying a winning season, student support of the team was strong. This was in direct contrast to student support in 1946. Then, Drake spirit had been at a low ebb. According to the Times Delphic, "the spirit shown by Drake fans and students at last Saturday's game was really wonderful. The best in years at Drake."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 31, 1947, Vol. 66, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 5, 1947, Vol. 66, p. 3.



Despite Drake's good showings against Oklahoma A. & M. and Iowa State Teachers College, the Bulldogs were no match for the Cyclones from Iowa State. Both teams were seeking their second victory of the season and both were in good physical condition for the game. The Cyclones scored on their fourth offensive play of the game and held a half time lead of 17-0. Drake's only score resulted from a sustained drive of seventy-five yards. Iowa State won the game, 36-6. During the week preceeding the game, the Iowa State campus was smeared with paint. It was estimated that three thousand dollars damage was done. Although there was no definite proof that Drake students had been responsible for the vandalism, President Harmon of Drake offered to pay for the damages. The Times Delphic issued the following warning:

This latest incident threatens the football series between the two schools. We hope the break will not occur and thus eliminate the high point in Drake football schedules.<sup>1</sup>

For her last game of the season, Drake traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico. This was the first time that New Mexico University had appeared on the Drake schedule. Throughout most of the game, Drake held a 7-2 lead. However, the Lobos marched fifty-four yards in the last four minutes of the game and scored a game winning touchdown. The final

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 12, 1947, Vol. 66, p. 2.



score was New Mexico University 8, Drake 7.

Coach Kawal awarded thirty-five varsity letters. Tom Bienemann was named on the All-Missouri Valley Conference team. Drake's record of one win and three losses placed her fourth in the Conference.

A sophomore laden varsity squad greeted Coach Al Kawal at the initial practice session of the 1948 season. These sophomores, led by Captain Al Hodor, wasted little time in beginning their atonement for the embarrassing won-lost record of 1947. By the end of the season, the Blue and White team had rolled to a very respectable record of seven wins and three losses.

South Dakota State furnished the opposition for the Bulldogs in the first game of the season. Drake easily outclassed the Dakota school by a 47-0 score. Drake rolled up a net yardage total of 491 yards as compared to 128 yards for South Dakota State. Sixteen men carried the ball for the Bulldogs. Bobby Clark led the onslaught with three touchdowns. Bob Handke, who must be included in any list of great Drake punters averaged forty-five yards per kick in five kicking attempts. One kick resulted in a seventy-five yard effort.

Drake student support, which had been noticeably lacking during the two preceeding years, especially in 1946, sprang to life and helped the team past Conference foe,



st. Louis. Organized student support came as a result of such clubs as the Drake Boom Club. Drake emerged from her first serious test with a 14-0 victory over the Billikens. Although the Billikens' line was big and fast, it was not much of a match for the inspired Bulldogs. Bobby Clark was lost to the team with a broken arm. The vicious linebacking of Floyd Miller was reminiscent of the play of Drake's famous "Pug" Manders.

Drake, seeking her first win since 1940 over Iowa State Teachers College on the Panthers' field, next traveled to Cedar Falls, Iowa. The Panthers had not lost a game at home in seventeen previous contests. Drake was favored to win. However, pre-game predictions proved to be false and the Panthers sent the Bulldogs back to Des Moines with a 6-0 defeat. Wichita inflicted the next defeat upon the Bulldogs. Before a Dad's Day crowd, the Wheatshockers downed the Bulldogs, 21-20. Drake entered the game minus the services of first team players Jim Baer, Tom Bienemann, Frank Lorenzo, Bobby Clark and Dick Bunting. The Bulldogs led the Shockers throughout most of the game. It was late in the final quarter before the Wichita team gained a 21-20 lead. Drake's final attempt for victory was thwarted by the final whistle of the game. With the ball resting on the Wichita three yard line and the Bulldogs in field goal kicking formation, the game ended; and the referee picked



up the ball before Drake's Dick Steere could make the attempted kick. The Times Delphic said, "Drake was never represented by a more fighting football team."<sup>1</sup>

Strong Bradley, accompanied by its band and a caravan of students, came to Drake for the first time in 1948. Only a booming forty yard field goal by Drake tackle, Dick Steere, enabled the Bulldogs to gain a hard won 17-14 victory. This was the first time since 1938 that Drake had scored on a field goal. The game was followed by a student body skip day.

Drake traveled to Colorado A. & M. for her next game. The Aggies were leading the Skyline Conference and were undefeated in five games. Once again a field goal by Dick Steere proved to be the margin of victory. The passing of Drake quarterback, Dick Camp, was also instrumental in the Bulldog 31-29 victory. En route to Fort Collins, Colorado, the Drake team was involved in a serious train wreck. Fortunately, no Bulldogs were injured.

Emporia State Teachers College came to Drake for the Drake homecoming game. The Bulldogs had not won a homecoming contest since the 52-0 victory against Doane in 1944. Emporia took an early 7-0 lead, but was not able to hold it. At the half, Drake led 27-7 and went on to score an easy 43-20 victory. Drake's third and last defeat of the season

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 13, 1948, Vol. 67, p. 3.



came at Ames, Iowa, where the Bulldogs lost a heart breaking 2-0 game. Drake's starting lineup included ten sophomores and one junior. Iowa State scored by intercepting a Drake fumble in the Drake end zone. Drake linebacker, Floyd Miller, intercepted an Iowa State pass; and as he ran with the ball, he fumbled it. The bounding ball rolled in the end zone where a Drake man recovered it. The resulting safety gave Iowa State its victory. Because of the wind and the viciousness of both lines, only six passes of thirty-three were completed.

Drake's final victory of the 1948 season was registered at the expense of New Mexico University. In her second game with the Lobos, the Blue and White scored a well earned 13-0 victory. The powerful Drake line stopped the Lobos's devastating fullback, Rudy Krall. Time after time, Bob Handke's booming punts enabled the Bulldogs to keep the New Mexico team deep in its own territory. One of Handke's punts traveled seventy-seven and another eighty-four yards.

Drake's record of one win and one loss in the Missouri Valley Conference gave her third place in the official standings. Dick Steere, the Bulldog place kicking specialist, gained a tackle berth on the All-Conference team. Tom Bienemann, for the second year, was picked at an end position on the All-Conference team. Steere, who led Drake scorers with twenty-nine points, was chosen as the outstanding Drake



lineman. Steer's points were a result of twenty successful extra point tries and three field goals. Because of his outstanding linebacking, Floyd Miller was chosen as Drake's outstanding backfield man.

At the end of the 1948 season, the Bulldogs accepted an invitation to play Arizona University in the Salad Bowl at Phoenix, Arizona, on January 1, 1949. Drake's only other game with the Arizona team was played in 1935. In that game, Arizona humiliated the Blue and White, 53-0. Once again, Arizona was the favored team. On several occasions, Arizona was deep in Drake territory only to be thwarted by the brilliant kicking of Bob Handke who averaged forty-two yards per kick in nine kicking attempts. Drake's ground offense was far from impotent in this contest. The Bulldogs ran for 315 yards. One of Drake's scores was the result of a recovered fumble by Drake guard, Arvil Stille. The other came as a result of an intercepted pass by Floyd Miller. At the game's final whistle, the Bulldogs held a 14-13 lead. Thus, Drake kept her post-season victory record unblemished. In two New Year's Day games she had registered victories. Added to the 1949 Salad Bowl victory, Drake also had scored a 13-12 win over Fresno State in the 1946 Raisin Bowl game.

Drake coached by Warren Gaer. Al Kawal resigned from his position of head football coach in the spring of 1949 and accepted a similar position at Temple University.



For her new coach, Drake turned to a Drake Alumnus, Warren Gaer. Gaer had captained the Bulldogs in 1934 and was the second Drake son to pilot the Blue and White. Not since Charles A. "Doc" Pell led the Bulldogs in 1906 and 1907 had a Drake Alumnus served as head coach of the Bulldog football team. Gaer came from George Pepperdine College where his teams had won twenty-two games and lost six. Shan Deniston, Leonard Adams and Charles Orebaugh assisted Gaer with the coaching duties. The Bulldogs, captained by Dick Steere, continued to be a power in the midwest. With a powerful line and sturdy backfield, the Drakes rolled to a season's record of six wins, two losses and one tie.

Drake opened the season against the South Dakota State Jackrabbits. Nine thousand fans witnessed not only the debut of Warren Gaer but also that of Johnny Bright. During this and the next two years that Bright was to compete for the Bulldogs, he was to establish himself as one of Drake's greatest football players. The 40-0 victory over the Jackrabbits was Drake's forty-fourth win in fifty seven opening games. The Bulldogs, with Johnny Bright playing tailback in the Gaer version of the single wingback formation, were never seriously challenged. Emporia Teachers, like South Dakota State, fell before the offensive minded Bulldogs, 42-0. Of Drake's six touchdowns, five were longer than fifty yard runs.



Drake journeyed to Bradley for the first Conference game of the season. Although Drake had started athletic relations with Bradley only the year before, a spirited rivalry had developed between the two schools. The Times Delphic described the rivalry in the following manner:

"Closing fast to the Drake-Iowa State rivalry is the teeth gnashing duel that has come along between Drake and Bradley over the past year."<sup>1</sup> Drake, led by the running of Joe Makarewicz and Johnny Bright, defeated the Braves, 17-7. Dick Steere kicked a thirty-five yard field goal. Bright, rushing and passing for 216 yards, gained the total yardage gained leadership of the nation. Through the Bradley game, Bright had accounted for 731 total yards.

The Dad's Day game at Drake Stadium was witnessed by ten thousand Bulldog followers. Drake easily defeated South Dakota University, 48-6. Drake's first real test came at Oklahoma A. & M. Thirty-five men made the trip to Aggieland. Behind the running and passing of Jack Hartman, the Aggies scored a convincing 28-0 victory. The Aggies did all their scoring in the first half. Even though the team went down to defeat, an "all out student reception"<sup>2</sup> greeted the losing Bulldogs as they returned home.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 2, 1949, Vol. 68, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 19, 1949, Vol. 68, p. 4.



Drake's third Valley opponent was St. Louis University. Drake went into the contest leading the league in almost every statistical department. This leadership resulted from the brilliant running and passing of sophomore Johnny Bright and the punting of Bob Handke. Two last quarter touchdowns by the Bulldogs broke a 14-14 tie and gave the Des Moines team a 27-14 victory. A student skip day followed the Bulldog victory.

Following the victory over St. Louis, Drake traveled to San Francisco, California, where they battled St. Mary's to a 13-13 tie. Six thousand fans in Kezar Stadium saw the Bulldogs stop the Gaels four times on the Drake goal. Early injuries to ends Tom Bienemann and Dick Bunting and to giant tackle, Ken Reidenback, hampered the Bulldog cause. By gaining a total of 227 yards, John Bright outgained the entire St. Mary's team.

Drake's sixty-third homecoming was marred by a 21-8 defeat at the hands of Iowa State. Twenty-one thousand fans, largest crowd in the history of Drake Stadium, saw the passing combination of Bill Weeks and Jim Doran riddled the Drake defense. Week's passing, coupled with Drake's fumbling, spelled doom for the Bulldogs. Drake's final game of the season resulted in a 7-6 victory over Wichita. That was the first time that Drake had defeated the Wheatshockers. Wichita had won five previous contests. Of the six games played be-



tween the two schools, no game had been decided by more than eight points. One of the most thrilling features of the game was the tremendous ninety-three yard punt by Bob Handke.

A record of three wins and one loss gave the Bulldogs second place in the Missouri Valley Conference. Johnny Bright's total offensive yardage of 1,950 yards led the nation. As a team, the Bulldogs gained 3,154 total yards to lead the Valley in that department. Tom Bienemann, end, Dick Steere, tackle, and John Bright, halfback, were named to the All-Missouri Valley Conference team. Nick Manoles, defensive guard, was voted most valuable to the team. Coach Warren Gaer awarded thirty-five varsity letter sweaters.

At the beginning of his second year as coach of the Bulldogs, Warren Gaer was greeted by forty-seven gridiron aspirants. Twenty-two of these men were returning lettermen. Fourteen of these lettermen were seeking their fourth varsity letter. (Freshmen were eligible for varsity competition in 1947.) Dick Bunting captained the 1950 squad. Behind a line that was the heaviest in Drake history. the Bulldogs once more finished the season with a record of six wins, two losses and one tie.

Drake opened the season with Denver, a tough opponent. On the opening kickoff, John Bright returned the ball seventy yards, and it looked as if the Bulldogs would score immediately. However, the drive was stopped on the Denver twenty-five yard



line, and the game developed into a rugged battle. It was not until the third quarter that Bright was able to score the games only touchdown, and the Bulldogs won, 7-0. Eight thousand fans attended the game which was dedicated to Dr. Channing Smith, captain of the great 1898 Drake team and lifelong follower of Bulldog football teams.

Emporia Teachers, 47-0, and South Dakota University, 41-13, proved to be no match for the steamrolling Bulldogs. Coach Gaer played thirty-five men in the Emporia game. Joe Bevere, sophomore tailback, who succeeded Drake's great punter, Bob Handke, averaged fifty-one yards per punt. Drake once again was blessed with an outstanding punter. In the South Dakota game, Johnny Bright scored three times in four running attempts during the first seven minutes of the first quarter. Drake's five man defensive line composed of Charles Crapser, Merwin Soper, Arvil Stille, Ken Reidenback, and Joe Philipppson had an average weight of 242 pounds.

The Bulldogs, smarting from the 28-0 defeat in 1949, battled the Oklahoma Aggies to a 14-14 tie. Although the Aggies were favored to win the game, it appeared that the Bulldogs would pull an upset. With five minutes to go in the game, Drake led, 14-7. Drake's next game was played against Iowa State Teachers College. This game marked the first time that the Bulldogs were guests at an Iowa Teachers' homecoming. The game brought together the leading ground



gainers of the nation in major and minor colleges. Bright had gained 948 yards and Bud Fisher of Iowa Teachers had gained 543 yards. A capacity crowd of eighty-five hundred people saw Bright complete seventeen of twenty-four passes. The Bulldogs routed the Panthers, 34-18.

In a loss which Coach Warren Gaer termed, "the toughest in sixteen years of coaching,"<sup>1</sup> the Bulldogs fell before Wichita, 17-14. Ten thousand Parent's Day fans saw the Bulldogs go into the last three minutes of the game with a 14-7 lead. A long scoring pass and successful extra point try gave Wichita a 14-14 tie. Wichita blocked a Drake punt, and with ten seconds to play, kicked a twenty-five yard field goal for the winning three points.

Drake's second loss of the season was a heart breaking affair for the Bulldogs. Until the last fourteen seconds of the game, the Bulldogs had a 13-7 lead. By pushing over a touchdown and an extra point in those few remaining seconds, Detroit won, 14-13. A penalty on her second extra point try cost the Bulldogs a chance to tie the game.

Bradley came to Drake for the sixty-fourth Bulldog homecoming. Johnny Bright, Drake's greatest ground gainer, needed only 459 yards to break the 2,187 yard record set by Georgia University's Frank Sinkwich in 1942. Behind the

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 27, 1950, Vol. 69, p. 3.



incomparable Bright, the Bulldogs scored a rousing 42-14 victory over the Braves. Bright, by running or passing, figured in all of Drake's scoring plays. A crowd of eight thousand saw him gain a total of 436 yards.

The mighty Bulldogs traveled to Iowa State College for their final game of the season. Tom Bienemann, who entered the game as the number one pass receiver in the nation, and twenty-two other Drake seniors ended their football careers. Drake football has witnessed few games as glorious as the decisive 35-21 triumph by the Bulldogs. Aided by a determined line, Bright scored four touchdowns, raising his total to eighteen for the season, and brought his total yardage to 2400 for a new one year record.

The Times Delphic described Drake jubilation at the games end in the following manner: "In a fitting climax to a great victory and an even greater season, a frenzied mob of Bulldog fans carried Bright, Captain Dick Bunting and Coach Warren Gaer from the field."<sup>1</sup>

The amazing play of Johnny Bright may best be discerned from the following statistics for the 1950 season. Bright carried the ball 183 times and gained 1,232 yards for an average of 6.7 yards per carrying attempt. In completing eighty-one of 137 passes for a passing yardage

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 17, 1950, Vol. 69, p. 3.



total of 1,168, he completed 59.1 per cent of his passes. By gaining a total of 2,400 yards, he set a national total yardage mark for one year. By running for eighteen and passing for twelve touchdowns, he accounted for thirty Bulldog touchdowns.

Bright was named to the Associated Press All-American second offensive team. He was also chosen at halfback on the All-Missouri Valley team. For the fourth year, Tom Bienemann was chosen at an end position on the All-Conference team. No other player has ever been accorded that honor. For the third year, Dick Steere was accorded All-Valley honors at tackle. Bienemann and Steer participated in the annual North vs. South football game in Miami, Florida.

Bob Binette and John Bright were co-captains of the 1951 Drake football squad which greeted Coach Warren Gaer in his third season at the Drake helm. Only ten lettermen returned and seventy per cent of the squad had no varsity experience. The Times Delphic bemoaned the supposedly sad plight of the Bulldogs with the following statement:

The outlook for a more than average showing is not good. Gone from last year's squad are such stalwarts as Tom Bienemann, only four time All-Valley player in history; rugged Dick "The Toe" Steere; Floyd Miller, probably Drake's greatest linebacker, and a host of outstanding gridgers.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, September 12, 1951, Vol. 70, p. 4.



Assisting Gaer in molding the relatively green team into one of Drake's most surprisingly successful teams were Ralph Stewart, Shan Deniston and Chuck Orebaugh. Drake completed the season with a record of seven wins and two losses.

Abilene Christian College was the first team to challenge the inexperienced but eager Bulldog squad. The Texas team had chalked up eleven victories in 1950, and twenty-one lettermen were available for the 1951 season. However, the Drake squad, led by Johnny Bright and showing little respect for the heavily favored Texans, defeated them, 19-0. Bright ran for two touchdowns and passed for the third. Denver University was next to feel the sharp teeth of the spirited Bulldogs. Drake, behind 7-6 at the beginning of the fourth quarter, scored fourteen points in the last quarter for a well earned 20-7 victory. Drake fans sensed that Drake, for the fourth year in succession, was represented by a first class eleven. About a hundred loyal students met the victorious Bulldogs when they arrived on the early morning train from Denver.

Bradley, Drake's third unsuccessful opponent of the season, came to Des Moines with one of the best ball teams in the history of the school. Drake, once again behind, 7-6, at the beginning of the last quarter, rallied to emerge with a 20-14 victory. Bright, personally accounting for 242



total yards, set a national career total yardage record. playing four years of varsity competition, Charlie Justice of the University of North Carolina amassed a total yardage record of 4,781 yards. In the Bradley game, Bright raised his total yardage to 5,079, thus breaking the record of Justice. Bright played only three years of varsity competition.

Iowa State Teachers College came to Drake for the annual Parent's Day game. Coach Gaer expressed an attitude of caution in the following pre-game statement: "They will rise up and battle us like nobody's business. They always do."<sup>1</sup> Gaer's fears were not well grounded in this instance. On a muddy, rain-swept field, the Panthers not only could not generate an offense of their own but also were unable to contain the Bulldog powerhouse. The all around brilliance of the sensational Bright was more than the Teachers could withstand. Bright, playing only fourteen minutes, ran and passed for 261 total yards, including three touchdowns by running and one by passing. Fifty-six Bulldogs saw action in the rout. The final score was Drake 39, Iowa State Teachers 6.

The success of the 1951 Bulldog team was largely due

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 5, 1951, Vol. 70, p. 3.



to the individual prowess of John Bright and to the spirited play of his team mates. Football fans throughout the state of Iowa paid homage to the Drake great by proclaiming the Detroit game as "Johnny Bright Night." Mayor A. B. Chambers issued a proclamation to the citizens of Des Moines declaring that the day officially be dedicated to Bright.

Bright did not disappoint the thirteen thousand fans who turned out for the Detroit game. The Blue and White won, 28-6, and Bright scored all four touchdowns. He scored one in each of the four quarters of the game. Coach Warren Gaer termed the performance as "the finest hour of an amazing career."<sup>1</sup>

Drake's first defeat of the season came at the hands of Oklahoma A. & M. The Bulldogs entered the game with a winning streak of five straight games. Not since the unbeaten season of 1922 had the Bulldogs scored five successive wins in one season. On the first play of the game, Bright received a broken jaw. Not realizing that the jaw was broken, Bright continued to play until he received another blow on the same spot. Bright was then forced to leave the game and Drake went down to a 27-14 defeat. The manner in which Bright's jaw was broken caused serious repercussions. After reviewing movies of the game, Drake authorities felt that a

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 12, 1951, Vol. 70, p. 4.



member of the Aggie team had purposely inflicted the injury to Bright's jaw. This incident eventually led to Drake's withdrawal from the Missouri Valley Conference and her severing of athletic relationships with Oklahoma A. & M.

Without the services of Bright, Drake was unable to score against Iowa State and sustained a 13-0 defeat. Seventeen thousand fans attended the Drake homecoming game. A feature of the game was the excellent punting of Joe Bevere who averaged forty-four yards per punt in nine punting attempts.

Drake's final home game of the season resulted in a 35-20 victory over Great Lakes Naval Training Station. The final victory of a very successful Bulldog season was registered at Wichita University. Behind the spectacular running, passing and punting of Joe Bevere who replaced the injured Bright, the Drake team scored a very satisfying 14-7 victory over the Wheatshockers. At the half time of the game, Wichita squad presented John Bright with a plaque citing him as their most respected competitor.

At the end of the season, Drake officially withdrew from the Missouri Valley Conference. In conjunction with the withdrawal statement, the athletic council issued the following comment in regard to future Drake athletic policy:

We wish to state to the students, faculty, alumni, and friends of Drake that withdrawal from Conference



affiliation does not mean curtailment of our inter-collegiate athletic program. We re-affirm our belief in the values which are found in intercollegiate athletics when conducted on a high plane of sportsmanship and when carried on as an integral part of the educational program of a university.<sup>1</sup>

Bright led the nation in total yardage gained in 1951 and also ran his record breaking career total to 5,903 yards. He was named to the West team for the annual East-West Shrine game. He participated in two Hula Bowl games in Hawaii. He was awarded the Iowa Amateur Athletic Association's plaque of the outstanding athlete in 1951, and the Nils V. "Swede" Nelson sportsmanship award.

The 1952 Drake football squad was hard hit by graduation and the armed forced draft brought about by the Korean War. Consequently, the 1952 Bulldog aggregation, captained by Jack Jennett, was unable to maintain the winning record of Drake's four previous teams. The close of the season found the Bulldogs with a record of two wins and seven defeats.

In a game that Coach Warren Gaer predicted "would be a whale of an opener",<sup>2</sup> Drake's Bulldogs defeated Iowa State Teachers College, 14-12. Drake did not play superb ball, but managed to hold an early lead. Drake then traveled to Dayton University for a game with Dayton's Flyers. This was the first football game between the two schools. The Bulldogs

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 30, 1951, Vol. 70, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, September 17, 1952, Vol. 71, p. 5.



were unable to cope with the fast running Dayton backs and went down to a 34-12 defeat. In the losing cause, Drake gained 201 yards by passing. Joe McClaren emerged from the game as the nation's leading pass receiver. With sixteen receptions, he had accounted for 306 total yards.

During the 1952 season, Drake's home attendance dropped sharply. Only thirty-five hundred loyal fans witnessed the Parent's Day game with Emporia Teachers. Drake had little trouble in downing the Emporia team by a 34-18 score. Drake's second defeat was administered at Boston, Massachusetts. In a hard-fought game, Boston College downed the Bulldogs, 20-14. Boston College jumped off to an early 13-0 lead, but the passing combination of Joe Bevere to Joe McClaren kept the Bulldogs in the game until the final minutes. One of Bevere's quick kicks traveled seventy yards. During pre-game ceremonies, a delegation from Chelsea, Massachusetts, home town of Joe Bevere, Gene Macomber and Abe Garnick, presented each of the three Bulldogs with a watch. After the Boston College game, Joe McClaren maintained his pass receiving leadership and Joe Bevere ranked second nationally in total offense.

Detroit next defeated the Bulldogs. The 57-0 rout at the hands of the Titans was the worst defeat in the history of the series between the two schools. In the



second quarter, the Titans scored thirty points. Bradley then registered her first victory over the hapless Drake team. In a game that was never a contest from the kickoff to the finish, the Braves romped to a 33-0 victory. Only forty-five hundred Drake fans attended the game.

The 1952 Drake homecoming was blighted by the Denver Bears. Neither Drake nor Denver entered the game with respectable won and lost records. However, the Denver team managed to win by a 27-19 score. Drake scored two touchdowns in the final ten minutes. The annual battle with Iowa State afforded Drake followers little consolation. Even though the Cyclones came into the game with a poor record of one win and six losses, the beaten and battered Bulldogs were no match for the men from Ames. As the Bulldogs went down to their sixth defeat of the season, "it was apparent from the start that the Bulldogs were outclassed and had no hope of a victory in the fifty-two year old contest between the two schools."<sup>1</sup>

Drake concluded the dismal season with a 41-14 loss to Wichita. Thus, the Bulldogs closed their season with the worst won and lost record that they had sustained under the guidance of Warren Gaer. In winning two games and losing

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 11, 1952, Vol. 71, p. 3.



seven, the Bulldogs had scored 115 points. Their opponents had scored 297 points.

The football fortunes of Warren Gaer's boys showed a definite rise in the fall of 1953. In a season that saw the demise of the two platoon or free substitution system and the revival of limited or one platoon system, the Bulldogs won four and lost four games. Only thirty-five men composed the Drake varsity squad. Of these, several had little football experience.

As Bulldog followers surveyed the results of the Kansas State vs. Drake game, apparitions of the disastrous 1952 season loomed menacingly realistic. Drake was no match for the hard-hitting team from Kansas State and were humbled, 50-0. Kansas State scored the first four times that they possessed the ball. They outgained the Bulldogs by 444 total yards. At Denver, in the following game, the Bulldogs, although not winning, were able to score fourteen points in a 33-14 loss. Drake was unable to hold a 7-6 half time lead. Gene Gatewood, Drake tailback, scored two touchdowns on long runs. One run covered sixty-seven yards and the other sixty-three.

Rolling up a total of 243 yards to 169 for South Dakota University, the Bulldogs gained their first victory of the 1953 season. Two of the Bulldog touchdowns were the result of passes. The Drake men scored a convincing 18-0



victory. Wichita, having one of her best teams in years, crushed the Bulldogs, 27-0. Four Drake fumbles and five Wichita pass interceptions aided the Wichita cause. Drake gained a total of only seventy-two yards throughout the entire game.

Iowa State came to Drake for the 1953 homecoming contest. This was the thirteenth time that the Bulldogs had played Iowa State on Drake homecoming day. Iowa State, fresh from a victory over Missouri, was heavily favored to defeat the Bulldogs. However, Coach Gaer and his team spoke of the possibilities of an upset. Gaer said,

The interest the boys have shown in practice this week leads me to believe that an upset victory over Iowa State is within the realm of possibility.<sup>1</sup>

Gene Gatewood expressed the feelings of the Bulldog squad when he said, "We'll upset Iowa State."<sup>2</sup> In one of the major upsets in the 1953 collegiate season, Drake defeated Iowa State, 12-7. The Bulldogs, who had heretofore run from a single wing offense, changed their offense to a baffling "T" style. Iowa State was unprepared for the change in the offensive formation and Drake pushed over two touchdowns. On another scoring drive, Drake was stopped on the one inch line.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 23, 1953, Vol. 72, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



Behind the powerful running of Gene "Moose" Hendrix and the passing of Gene Gatewood, Drake defeated Bradley, 21-13. Hendrix carried the ball thirty times and averaged five yards per carry. Gatewood completed nine of seventeen passes for a total of 231 yards. As the Bulldogs tried for their fourth victory of the season, Wayne stopped them, 25-19, at the Drake Stadium. Behind the running of Vic Zucco, speedy Tartar halfback, the Wayne team broke a 19-19 tie and scored the winning touchdown with seven minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

Drake's fourth and final victory of the season came at the expense of Iowa State Teachers College. The Panthers, with one of the best passing attacks in their history, held a 7-6 lead at the half. With two minutes left to play in the fourth quarter, the score was tied, 20-20. At this point, Gene Hendrix powered over the Panther goal for the winning touchdown.

Because of a shortage of players, Drake was forced to play freshmen in her varsity games in 1954. On a squad composed of forty-five men, twenty-eight were freshmen. Only five seniors were included on the squad. Of these five, two were co-captains Loyd Wasmer and Floyd Acker. In his sixth year at the Drake helm, Warren Gaer was assisted by Shan Deniston, Ralph Stewart and Jack Kaley. With a team that often contained nine freshmen in the starting lineup,



the Bulldogs finished the season with a record of two wins and seven defeats.

Drake's first three games against strong opponents resulted in stunning defeats. At Boulder, Colorado, the Bulldogs were soundly defeated by a 61-0 score. Denver University then visited the Drake campus. The Times Delphic described the game in this manner:

The boys from the mile high city, who were part of a Denver University rebuilding program a grid campaign ago, exhibited enough football savvy to outsmart many Bulldog freshmen who were in their second collegiate contest.<sup>1</sup>

Drake efforts to stem the avalanch of touchdowns registered by Wichita in the following game were futile. The heavily favored Shockers, who Coach Shan Deniston described as "the fastest college team I have ever seen,"<sup>2</sup> rolled to a 54-6 victory over the hapless Bulldogs.

Drake's first victory of the season occurred at Cedar Falls, Iowa, where the Bulldogs downed the Iowa State Teachers College team, 14-12. The Bulldogs were behind 12-0 at the half. The passing combination of Roger LaBrasca to Jerry Mertens and the powerful running of Gene Hendrix provided the Bulldogs with offensive ability to score fourteen points in the last quarter. South Dakota University, operating from a deceptive split "T" offense,

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, September 28, 1954, Vol. 73, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 1, 1954, Vol. 73, p. 3.



downed the Bulldogs in a high scoring contest by a 33-26 score. Speaking of the game, the Times Delphic commented in the following fashion: "From a spectators viewpoint, the contest was an exciting affair that featured long passes, stray punts, and swivel hipped running that accounted for swift scoring."<sup>1</sup> The running of Larry Duncan and Gene Hendrix featured the Bulldog attack.

The 14-7 loss to Bradley dampened the spirit of Drake's homecoming activities in 1954. Bradley had defeated the Drake team only once in six previous engagements. Despite the inspired running of Gene Hendrix, who averaged six and one-half yards per carry, the Bulldogs were not able to capitalize on several good scoring opportunities. Drake fumbles deep in Bradley territory cost the Bulldogs a possible victory. Drake's sixth defeat of the season came at the hands of Iowa State. Neither team entered the contest with an impressive record. Yet the young Bulldog squad proved no match for the hard hitting Cyclones and suffered a 35-18 defeat. Roger LaBrasca, freshman quarterback entered the seventh game of the season with a pass completion mark of twenty-five completions in forty-three passing attempts.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, October 15, 1954, Vol. 73, p. 3.



Drake's final defeat of the dismal season was administered by a powerful Kansas State team. Kansas State rolled to three touchdowns in the first quarter. However, the Drake men fought back and the half time score was 20-12 with Kansas State leading. During the second half, Drake's light and inexperienced team could not contain the heavy Kansas State team and the Wildcats went on to a 53-18 victory.

Drake's final game of the season resulted in their second victory. Traveling to Detroit, Michigan, where they met another inexperienced team in Wayne University, the Bulldogs gained a 33-24 victory. Only 580 fans witnessed the game, which was played on Friday afternoon.

Although the 1954 season was a poor one in regard to the won and lost record, hopes for future Bulldog teams were not at a low ebb. By playing freshmen in the varsity games, Drake had been able to give valuable experience to a large number of young players. It remained to be seen whether or not this experience would produce victories in the immediate years to come. As a fitting tribute to the young Drake team, the Times Delphic said, "The Bulldogs have never lost the poise and desire to win even in their worst moments. That's no easy task to perform every week, but the Bulldogs have done it."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Times Delphic, November 5, 1954, Vol. 73, p. 3.



## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Since starting intercollegiate football in 1893, Drake University has fielded a team for sixty-one consecutive years. During those years, Drake teams have played 505 football games and have won 51.1 per cent of those games. Seventeen coaches have led the Blue and White teams against eighty-five different opponents.

Football has long held a prominent role in the life of the Drake student body. Drake authorities have always made every effort to maintain the sport. Even during two world wars, when many other universities and colleges found that fielding an interscholastic team was too difficult, Drake continued to play the game.

During the past decade, many schools of Drake's size have deemed it advisable to drop their football program. Financial drain on the athletic budget and many other reasons have been given for discontinuing the sport. Drake, even though not always showing a profit from gate receipts, has continued to play a major football schedule. Student support and enthusiasm for the sport throughout the years have indicated a desire and a student need for this part of the athletic program. Sufficient evidence has been presented in the text of the field report to warrant the writer's



statement that football should be continued as long as the student body has a desire and a need for the sport.

It has been the policy of the school to play a major football schedule. In following this policy, such football powers as Navy, Army, Notre Dame, Marquette, Southern Methodist, U. C. L. A., Mississippi, all the Big Seven schools, seven of the Big Ten schools, and all of the Missouri Valley schools with the exception of Houston have appeared on the Drake schedules throughout the years.

In keeping with this policy of playing a major schedule, much discretion in choosing opponents should have been used. Discretion was not always the guide in past years. From the standpoint of evenness of competition, Drake's record against several of these football powers has been little short of disastrous. On many occasions, the Drake teams found themselves with too few players and too little ability. It is evident that unless Drake has one of her very best teams, schools of Big Ten caliber should not be scheduled.

After World War I, Drake attempted to play at least one game with an opponent several hundred miles distant from Des Moines. This was done with the thought that the football program would be more attractive to the boys, the trips would be educational, and Drake's name would become better known. There has been much evidence that the policy of playing inter-sectional games has been a successful one from the above



standpoint, and that they should be continued.

Drake joined the Missouri Valley Conference in 1908. She officially withdrew from the Conference in 1951. During those forty-two years of Valley competition, the Bulldogs won 46.4 per cent of her Conference games. In 1928, 1929, 1930, and 1931, the Blue and White teams won Conference championships. During those years, Drake had her share of notable football players. Few were the years in which a Drake man was not represented on the All-Conference team.

One of the high points of the season for both teams has been the Drake vs. Iowa State game. The rivalry which started in 1898 has, with the exception of only a few years, been a yearly event for the two schools. There were some years when ill advised pre-and post-game student activities threatened the longevity of the series. However, the rivalry appears to have matured into one not only of considerable intensity but also of friendliness. Every effort should be made to continue the football relationship between the two schools.



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September 25, 1909; October 9, 1909; December 4, 1909;  
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September 19, 1912; November 15, 1912; November 16, 1912;  
November 15, 1914; October 31, 1914; October 9, 1915;  
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November 1, 1946; November 20, 1946; December 6, 1946;  
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November 5, 1954.



# APPENDIX A.

## DRAKE YEARLY FOOTBALL SCORES

1893 THROUGH 1950

Drake	Opp.	Drake	Opp.
1893:		1893:	
6 Des Moines B. S.	0	48 Lehigh	5
9 Simpson	62	4 Cornell	1
6 Simpson	6	3 Kansas	29
		11 Missouri	0
1894:		5 Nebraska	15
9 Panora A. C.	20	17 Penn	3
18 Y. M. C. A.	0	18 Grinnell	0
16 Grinnell	0		
6 Simpson	15	1895:	
		20 Des Moines Baptist	0
1895:		5 Grinnell	0
5 Panora A. C.	0	30 Ia. State Teachers	0
6 Y. M. C. A.	4	5 Nebraska	0
6 Penn	1	26 Iowa	26
16 Simpson	18	5 Simpson	13
9 Y. M. C. A.	22	16 Iowa State	0
		3 Penn	0
1896:		17 Grinnell	0
9 Iowa	71		
16 Monmouth	10	1897:	
12 Monmouth	0	22 Des Moines Baptist	0
6 Grinnell	48	3 Grinnell	0
6 Knox	0	3 Iowa	0
		30 Ia. State Teachers	2
1898:		24 Missouri	0
16 Penn	0	5 Simpson	10
9 Panora A. C.	10	18 Iowa State	3
18 Knoxville	0	6 Grinnell	3
6 Grinnell	10		
9 Iowa	16	1898:	
		11 Grinnell	0
1898:		5 Iowa	12
10 Grinnell	12	30 Ia. State Teachers	5
34 Monmouth	0	3 Simpson	0
16 Iowa	5	6 Cornell	0
16 Iowa State	17	6 Iowa State	0
18 Grinnell	16	22 Des Moines Baptist	0
6 Nebraska	5	47 Grinnell	0
		Kansas (Cancelled)	



# APPENDIX A

## DRAKE YEARLY FOOTBALL SCORES

1893 THROUGH 1954

<u>Drake</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Drake</u>	<u>Opp.</u>
1893:		1899:	
0 Des Moines H. S.	0	48 Lenox	5
0 Simpson	62	6 Cornell	0
0 Simpson	6	6 Kansas	29
		11 Missouri	0
1894:		6 Nebraska	12
0 Panora AC	20	17 Penn	5
18 Y. M. C. A.	6	18 Grinnell	6
16 Grinnell	4		
0 Simpson	18	1900:	
		29 Des Moines Baptist	0
1895:		6 Grinnell	0
6 Panora A. C.	0	50 Ia. State Teachers	0
0 Y. M. C. A.	4	0 Nebraska	8
0 Penn	4	0 Iowa	26
16 Simpson	18	6 Simpson	5
0 Y. M. C. A.	22	16 Iowa State	0
		5 Penn	6
1896:		17 Grinnell	0
0 Iowa	32		
16 Monmouth	10	1901:	
12 Monmouth	2	29 Des Moines Baptist	0
0 Grinnell	48	5 Grinnell	6
0 Knox	6	5 Iowa	6
		33 Ia. State Teachers	2
1897:		24 Missouri	0
16 Penn	4	5 Simpson	10
0 Panora A. C.	16	12 Iowa State	5
18 Knoxville	0	0 Grinnell	5
0 Grinnell	30		
0 Iowa	16	1902:	
		11 Grinnell	0
1898:		0 Iowa	12
10 Grinnell	12	36 Ia. State Teachers	5
34 Monmouth	0	5 Simpson	6
18 Iowa	5	6 Cornell	0
16 Iowa State	17	0 Iowa State	0
18 Grinnell	16	22 Des Moines Baptist	0
6 Nebraska	5	47 Grinnell	0
		Kansas (Cancelled)	



## 1903:

45 Penn	0
6 Iowa	22
17 Missouri	0
0 Michigan	47
45 Simpson	2
25 Cornell	6
32 Grinnell	0
0 Iowa State	16

## 1904:

18 Buena Vista	0
0 Iowa	17
52 Coe	0
0 Wisconsin	81
67 Grinnell	0
4 Michigan	36
46 Simpson	5
26 Ia. State Teachers	6
0 Iowa State	17

## 1905:

18 Penn	6
32 Coe	15
4 Grinnell	5
0 Michigan	48
75 Simpson	0
10 Haskell Indians	6
0 Iowa	44
12 Iowa State	17

## 1906:

0 Nebraska	5
14 Des Moines Bapt.	6
0 Grinnell	4
10 Haskell Indians	0
8 Morningside	8
9 St. Louis	32
Iowa (Cancelled)	
0 Iowa State	7

## 1907:

6 Grinnell	0
6 Morningside	5
0 Alumni	0
26 Coe	0
4 Iowa	25
0 Grinnell	10
11 Creighton	21
8 Iowa State	13

## 1908:

4 Alumni	0
45 Leander Clarke	0
18 Coe	0
9 Grinnell	0
6 Washburn	0
8 Missouri	11
12 Iowa	6
6 Iowa State	12

## 1909:

9 Des Moines Baptist	0
12 Alumni	0
35 Coe	0
16 Simpson	0
32 Grinnell	0
17 Iowa	14
6 Missouri	22
11 Iowa State	0

## 1910:

5 Des Moines Baptist	6
0 Illinois	29
22 Coe	0
0 Kansas	6
3 Simpson	0
13 Grinnell	9
0 Iowa	21
0 Iowa State	2

## 1911:

23 Parsons	0
29 Des Moines Baptist	0
65 Coe	6
3 Kansas	11
33 Simpson	0
6 Grinnell	0
6 Washington	6
0 Iowa State	6



## 1912:

96 Parsons	0
21 Alumni	7
6 Kansas	0
28 Simpson	0
33 Washington	13
14 Missouri	17
0 Grinnell	13
3 Iowa State	23

## 1913:

24 Central	0
0 Coe	0
20 Grinnell	0
0 Kansas	11
32 Washington	17
0 Missouri	10
25 Iowa State Teachers	0
3 Iowa State	26

## 1914:

19 Leander Clarke	0
51 Central	0
20 Grinnell	7
7 Kansas	32
7 Washington	7
6 Missouri	32
14 Iowa State Teachers	3
0 Iowa State	52

## 1915:

13 Nebraska	48
13 Highland Park	16
7 Kansas	30
45 Simpson	3
26 Washington	16
0 Grinnell	58
13 Missouri	41
14 Iowa State	28

## 1916:

7 Penn	2
0 Nebraska	53
13 Washington	0
6 Northwestern	40
0 Grinnell	21
32 Simpson	0
0 Missouri	14
14 Iowa State	33

## 1917:

7 Penn	7
3 Creighton	12
0 Missouri	49
7 Grinnell	25
0 Washington	20
7 Simpson	7
0 Iowa State	47

## 1918:

35 Des Moines Univ.	7
0 Grinnell	71
0 Washington	26
13 Simpson	6
Iowa State (Cancelled)	
35 Fort Des Moines	7

## 1919:

33 Penn	0
12 Simpson	10
0 Missouri	3
6 Grinnell	0
14 Washington	13
3 South Dakota	6
0 Iowa State	14

## 1920:

54 Penn	0
66 Simpson	0
0 Illinois	41
3 Kansas	7
7 Missouri	10
6 Grinnell	6
14 Washington	6
7 Creighton	0
6 Morningside	14
7 Oklahoma	44

## 1921:

42 Penn	0
15 Kansas	7
41 Cornell	0
0 Missouri	6
0 Iowa State	7
20 Morningside	10
21 Grinnell	10



## 1922: (Undefeated)

16 Cornell	0
6 Kansas	0
31 Washington	7
14 Iowa State	7
19 Colorado A. & M.	6
21 Grinnell	0
48 Mississippi State	6

## 1923:

20 Cornell	0
54 Rolla Miners	0
41 Grinnell	0
21 Iowa State	0
6 Coe	12
0 Kansas	17
26 Oklahoma	20

## 1924:

33 Utah	14
19 Knox	10
13 Grinnell	0
28 Oklahoma	0
6 Kansas	6
7 Kansas State	6
0 Iowa State	10
0 Florida	10

## 1925:

6 Washington	0
19 Kansas State	0
0 Oklahoma	7
7 Grinnell	6
7 Kansas	0
14 Nebraska	0
6 Iowa State	7
8 South. Meth. Univ.	21

## 1926:

0 Nebraska	21
7 Navy	24
0 Oklahoma	11
33 Mississippi	15
13 Kansas	0
7 Iowa State	13
0 Notre Dame	21
0 Grinnell	13

## 1927:

6 Navy	35
0 Pittsburgh	32
20 Simpson	6
26 Grinnell	6
6 Kansas	7
0 Iowa State	7
6 Minnesota	27
0 Notre Dame	32
25 U. C. L. A.	6

## 1928:

40 Simpson	6
26 Marquette	7
19 Grinnell	7
6 Notre Dame	32
6 Missouri	0
20 Washington	0
18 Iowa State	0
6 Creighton	0

## 1929:

39 Simpson	0
18 Oklahoma A. & M.	6
20 Washington	0
0 Missouri	20
6 Grinnell	6
34 Creighton	12
7 Notre Dame	19
7 Iowa State	0
14 Temple	16

## 1930:

7 Oregon	14
0 Marquette	12
20 Grinnell	7
13 Missouri	14
12 Washington	0
38 Creighton	6
7 Notre Dame	28
20 Iowa State	19
49 Temple	20



1931:		1935:	
26 Simpson	0	27 Central	0
19 Creighton	6	40 Simpson	12
0 Notre Dame	63	7 Ohio State	85
0 Fordham	46	6 Creighton	6
26 Washington	0	21 Haskell Indians	0
20 Missouri	32	33 Grinnell	21
7 Iowa State	6	0 Washington	13
6 Grinnell	0	7 Iowa State	7
6 Marquette	32	0 Tulsa	7
7 Loyola (LA.)	22	0 Arizona	53
13 Hawaii	19		
1932:		1936:	
31 Simpson	9	52 Simpson	6
7 Oklahoma A. & M.	27	53 Coe	6
0 Notre Dame	62	44 Central	14
0 Creighton	12	6 Creighton	13
0 Grinnell	7	20 Washington	18
0 Butler	0	19 Grinnell	6
6 Washington	0	13 Denver	27
13 Iowa State	34	6 Tulsa	21
0 Marquette	45	7 Iowa State	21
		18 Washburn	0
1933:		1937:	
14 Simpson	7	47 Central	0
6 Illinois	13	32 Washington	2
26 Butler	6	0 Notre Dame	21
6 Creighton	0	25 Washburn	0
13 Grinnell	0	9 Creighton	0
6 Washington	0	30 Iowa State	0
14 Temple	20	45 Grinnell	7
0 Oklahoma A. & M.	21	9 Tulsa	41
13 Grinnell	0	31 Coe	2
7 Iowa State	7	7 Miami (Fla.)	0
1934:		1938:	
6 Simpson	6	45 Central	0
0 Utah	6	47 Monmouth	0
0 Oklahoma A. & M.	7	13 Washington	25
0 Army	48	0 Northwestern	33
8 Grinnell	0	7 Creighton	7
0 Washington	20	18 Miami (Fla.)	6
20 Haskell Indians	7	21 Grinnell	6
7 Denver	8	0 Iowa State	14
12 Iowa State	33	27 Tulsa	7
6 Creighton	0	16 New Mexico State	20



## 1939:

12 Kansas	6
13 Grinnell	0
0 Creighton	7
7 Iowa State	0
12 St. Louis	0
20 Washburn	7
6 Miami (Fla.)	33
13 Washington	25
6 Tulsa	14
0 San Jose	12

## 1940:

56 Montana State	0
20 Grinnell	7
6 Kansas	20
0 Navy	19
0 St. Louis	21
19 Washburn	6
6 Iowa State	7
20 Washington	14
0 Creighton	14

## 1941:

21 St. Ambrose	6
8 Iowa	25
8 Grinnell	0
6 St. Louis	6
0 Illinois	40
7 Creighton	12
0 Washington	12
13 Iowa State Teach.	0
14 Iowa State	13
6 Tulsa	20

## 1942:

32 Central	0
6 St. Ambrose	12
7 Grinnell	6
19 St. Louis	9
14 Creighton	33
0 Tulsa	40
6 Iowa State	29
12 Iowa State Teach.	27
7 Washington	14
12 Oklahoma A. & M.	55

## 1943:

12 Central	6
50 West. Ill. Teach.	0
19 Missouri Valley	7
23 Wm. Jewell	19
6 Doane	12
0 Iowa State	20

## 1944:

27 Cornell	0
25 Gustavus Adolphus	14
26 Washburn	6
14 Gustavus Adolphus	2
59 Doane	0
26 St. Olaf	13
31 Missouri Valley	0
0 Iowa State	9
12 Wichita	13

## 1945:

40 Kearney Air Base	13
0 Tulsa	19
34 South Dakota St.	0
19 Denver	19
14 Detroit	19
25 St. Louis	0
53 Iowa State Teach.	6
6 Iowa State	8
13 Wichita	19
13 Fresno State	12

## 1946:

26 St. Ambrose	13
7 Texas Mines	2
13 Tulsa	48
6 Wichita	12
6 St. Louis	27
6 Detroit	33
7 Iowa State	7
0 Iowa State Teach.	46
7 Oklahoma A. & M.	59



## 1947:

7	Texas Mines	19
19	Colorado A. & M.	23
14	Tulsa	28
13	Wichita	21
12	St. Louis	41
13	Oklahoma A. & M.	9
6	Iowa State Teach.	6
6	Iowa State	36
7	New Mexico	8

## 1948:

47	South Dakota State	0
14	St. Louis	0
0	Iowa State Teach.	6
20	Wichita	21
17	Bradley	14
31	Colorado A. & M.	29
43	Emporia State	20
0	Iowa State	2
13	New Mexico	0
14	Arizona	13

## 1949:

40	South Dakota State	0
42	Emporia State	0
17	Bradley	7
48	South Dakota	6
0	Oklahoma A. & M.	28
27	St. Louis	14
13	St. Mary's	13
8	Iowa State	21
7	Wichita	6

## 1950:

7	Denver	0
47	Emporia State	6
41	South Dakota	13
14	Oklahoma A. & M.	14
34	Iowa State Teach.	18
14	Wichita	17
13	Detroit	14
42	Bradley	14
35	Iowa State	21

## 1951:

19	Abilene Christian	7
20	Denver	7
20	Bradley	14
39	Iowa State Teach.	6
26	Detroit	6
14	Oklahoma A. & M.	27
0	Iowa State	13
35	Great Lakes	20
14	Wichita	7

## 1952:

14	Iowa State Teach.	12
13	Dayton	34
34	Emporia State	18
14	Boston College	20
0	Detroit	57
0	Bradley	33
19	Denver	27
7	Iowa State	55
14	Wichita	41

## 1953:

0	Kansas State	50
14	Denver	33
18	South Dakota Univ.	0
0	Wichita	27
12	Iowa State	7
21	Bradley	13
19	Wayne	25
27	Iowa State Teach.	20

## 1954:

0	Colorado	61
13	Denver	33
6	Wichita	54
14	Iowa State Teach.	12
26	South Dakota Univ.	33
7	Bradley	14
18	Iowa State	35
18	Kansas State	53
33	Wayne	24



# APPENDIX B

## YEARLY WON AND LOST RECORDS OF DRAKE COACHES

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COACH</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>TIED</u>	<u>PCT.</u>	<u>DRAKE POINTS</u>	<u>OPP. POINTS</u>
1893	None	0	2	1	.167	0	68
1894	W. W. Wharton	2	2	0	.500	34	48
1895	Herman Williams	1	4	0	.200	22	48
1896	Fred Rogers	2	3	0	.400	28	98
1897	A. B. Potter	2	3	0	.400	34	66
1898	A. B. Potter	4	2	0	.667	102	55
1899	A. B. Potter	5	2	0	.714	112	57
Potter's 3-Year Record: Won 11, Lost 7							
1900	Charles M. Best	6	3	0	.667	129	45
1901	Charles M. Best	4	4	0	.500	113	34
Best's 2-Year Record: Won 10, Lost 7							
1902	G. O. Dietz	5	2	1	.688	127	23
1903	W. J. Monilaw	5	3	0	.625	170	93
1904	W. J. Monilaw	5	4	0	.556	213	164
Monilaw's 2-Year Record: Won 10, Lost 7							
1905	William Heston	4	4	0	.500	151	141
1906	Charles Pell	2	4	1	.357	41	62
1907	Charles Pell	3	4	1	.438	61	74
Pell's 2-Year Record: Won 5, Lost 8, Tied 2							
1908	John L. Griffith	6	2	0	.750	108	29
1909	John L. Griffith	7	1	0	.875	138	36
1910	John L. Griffith	3	5	0	.375	43	73
1911	John L. Griffith	5	2	1	.688	165	29
1912	John L. Griffith	5	3	0	.625	201	73
1913	John L. Griffith	4	3	1	.563	104	64
1914	John L. Griffith	4	3	1	.563	124	133
1915	John L. Griffith	2	6	0	.250	131	240
Griffith's 8-Year Record: Won 36, Lost 25, Tied 3							
1916	Ralph Glaze	3	5	0	.375	72	173
1917	Ralph Glaze	0	5	2	.143	24	167
Glaze's 2-Year Record: Won 3, Lost 10, Tied 2							
1918	M. B. Banks	3	2	0	.600	83	117
1919	M. B. Banks	4	3	0	.571	68	46
1920	M. B. Banks	4	5	1	.450	170	128
Bank's 3-Year Record: Won 11, Lost 10, Tied 1							
1921	Ossie Solem	5	2	0	.714	139	40
1922	Ossie Solem	7	0	0	1.000	155	26
1923	Ossie Solem	5	2	0	.714	168	49
1924	Ossie Solem	5	2	1	.688	106	56
1925	Ossie Solem	5	3	0	.625	67	41
1926	Ossie Solem	2	6	0	.250	60	118
1927	Ossie Solem	3	6	0	.333	89	158
1928	Ossie Solem	7	1	0	.875	141	52



<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COACH</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>TIED</u>	<u>PCT.</u>	<u>DRAKE POINTS</u>	<u>OPPS. POINTS</u>
1929	Ossie Solem	5	3	1	.678	145	78
1930	Ossie Solem	5	4	0	.556	166	120
1931	Ossie Solem	5	6	0	.455	130	226
Solem's 11-Year Record: Won 54, Lost 35, Tied 2							
1932	Evan O. Williams	2	6	1	.278	57	196
1933	Vee Green	6	3	1	.724	105	74
1934	Vee Green	3	6	1	.389	59	135
1935	Vee Green	4	4	2	.500	141	204
1936	Vee Green	6	4	0	.600	238	132
1937	Vee Green	8	2	0	.800	235	73
1938	Vee Green	5	4	1	.550	194	118
1939	Vee Green	5	5	0	.500	89	104
1940	Vee Green	4	5	0	.444	127	108
1941	Vee Green	4	5	1	.450	83	134
1942	Vee Green	3	7	0	.300	115	225
1943	Vee Green	4	2	0	.667	110	64
1944	Vee Green	7	2	0	.778	220	57
1945	Vee Green	5	4	1	.550	219	115
1946	Vee Green	2	6	1	.278	78	247
Green's 14-Year Record: Won 66, Lost 59, Tied 8							
1947	Al Kawal	1	7	1	.167	97	191
1948	Al Kawal	7	3	0	.700	199	105
Kawal's 2-Year Record: Won 8, Lost 10, Tied 1							
1949	Warren Gaer	6	2	1	.722	202	95
1950	Warren Gaer	6	2	1	.722	247	117
1951	Warren Gaer	7	2	0	.778	187	107
1952	Warren Gaer	2	7	0	.222	115	297
1953	Warren Gaer	4	4	0	.500	111	175
1954	Warren Gaer	2	7	0	.222	117	319
Gaer's 6-Year Record: Won 27, Lost 24, Tied 2							



# APPENDIX C

## DRAKE'S ALL-TIME WON AND LOST RECORD

### AGAINST EACH OPPONENT

<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>TIED</u>	<u>DRAKE POINTS</u>	<u>OPPO NENTS POINTS</u>
Abilene Christian	1	0	0	19	7
Alumni (Drake)	3	0	1	37	7
Arizona University	1	1	0	14	66
Army	0	1	0	0	48
Bradley	5	2	0	125	109
Buena Vista	1	0	0	18	0
Butler	1	0	1	26	6
U. C. L. A.	1	0	0	25	6
Central	8	0	0	282	20
Coe	9	1	1	340	41
Cornell (Iowa)	7	0	0	141	6
Creighton	8	8	2	179	161
Denver	2	5	1	112	154
Des Moines Baptist	6	1	0	137	12
Des Moines High School	0	0	0	0	0
(First Football Game, 1893)					
Detroit	1	4	0	59	72
Doane	1	1	0	65	12
Fordham	0	1	0	0	46
Fort Des Moines Army Post	1	0	0	35	7
Fresno State	1	0	0	13	12
Great Lakes Naval Training Center	1	0	0	35	20
Grinnell	37	15	2	739	471
Gustavus Adolphus	2	0	0	39	16
Haskall Institute	4	0	0	61	13
Hawaii University	0	1	0	13	19
Highland Park College	1	1	0	48	23
Illinois	0	4	0	6	123
Iowa University	3	11	0	70	271
Iowa State	14	36	4	405	812
Iowa State Teachers	13	3	1	318	157
Kansas	6	10	1	103	189
Kansas State	2	2	0	44	109
Kansas State Teachers (Emporia)	4	0	0	126	44
Kearney Army Air Base	1	0	0	40	13
Knox	1	1	0	19	16
Knoxville College	1	0	0	18	0



<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>TIED</u>	<u>DRAKE</u> <u>POINTS</u>	<u>OPPONENTS</u> <u>POINTS</u>
Leander Clarke College	2	0	0	64	0
Lenox Junior College	1	0	0	48	5
Loyola Univ. (Los Angeles)	0	1	0	7	22
Marquette	1	3	0	32	96
Miami University	2	1	0	31	39
Michigan	0	3	0	4	131
Minnesota	0	1	0	6	27
Mississippi	1	0	0	33	15
Mississippi State College	1	0	0	48	6
Missouri	4	14	0	145	281
Missouri Valley College	2	0	0	50	7
Monmouth	4	0	0	109	12
Montana State College	1	0	0	56	0
Morningside	2	1	1	40	37
U. S. Naval Academy	0	3	0	13	78
Nebraska	2	6	0	39	152
New Mexico	1	1	0	20	8
New Mexico State	0	1	0	16	20
Northwestern	0	2	0	6	73
Notre Dame	0	8	0	20	278
Ohio State	0	1	0	7	85
Oklahoma	2	3	0	61	82
Oklahoma A. & M.	2	7	1	85	253
Oregon	0	1	0	7	14
Panora A. C.	1	2	0	6	36
Parsons	2	0	0	119	0
Wm. Penn Coll. (Oskaloosa)	8	2	1	244	34
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	0	32
Rolla School of Mines	1	0	0	54	0
St. Ambrose	2	1	0	53	31
St. Louis	5	4	1	130	150
St. Mary's (California)	0	0	1	13	13
St. Olaf	1	0	0	26	13
San Jose State	0	1	0	0	12
Simpson	21	6	2	721	210
South Dakota University	3	2	0	136	58
South Dakota State	3	0	0	121	0
Southern Methodist	0	1	0	8	21
Temple	1	2	0	77	56
Texas Mines	1	1	0	14	21
Tulsa	1	9	0	81	245
Utah	1	1	0	33	20
Washburn (Topeka)	6	0	0	114	19
Washington U. (St. Louis)	17	8	2	377	274
Western Illinois	1	0	0	50	0
Wichita	2	9	0	119	238
William Jewell	1	0	0	23	19
Wisconsin	0	1	0	0	81
Y. M. C. A. (Des Moines)	1	2	0	18	32



# APPENDIX D

## DRAKE'S WON AND LOST RECORD AGAINST TEAMS

### IN THE BIG TEN, BIG SEVEN

### AND MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE

	<u>BIG TEN</u>			<u>DRAKE</u>	<u>OPPONENTS</u>
	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>TIED</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Illinois	0	4	0	6	123
Iowa	3	11	0	70	271
Michigan	0	3	0	4	131
Minnesota	0	1	0	6	27
Northwestern	0	2	0	6	73
Ohio State	0	1	0	7	85
Wisconsin	0	1	0	0	81
Overall Record: Won 3, Lost 23					

	<u>BIG SEVEN</u>				
Iowa State	14	36	4	405	812
Kansas University	6	10	1	103	189
Kansas State	2	2	0	44	109
Missouri	4	14	0	145	281
Nebraska	2	6	0	39	152
Oklahoma	2	3	0	61	82
Colorado	1	0	0	0	61
Overall Record: Won 30, Lost 71, Tied 5					

	<u>MISSOURI VALLEY</u>				
Bradley	5	2	0	125	109
Detroit	1	4	0	59	72
St. Louis University	5	4	1	130	150
Oklahoma A. & M.	2	7	1	85	253
Tulsa	1	9	0	81	245
Wichita	2	9	0	119	238
Overall Record: Won 16, Lost 35, Tied 2					

\*Schles in original conference; six schools withdrew and formed Big Six Conference



# APPENDIX E

## DRAKE'S YEARLY MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE

### WON AND LOST RECORD

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>TIED</u>	<u>CONFERENCE STANDING</u>	<u>NO. OF TEAMS IN CONFERENCE</u>
1908	1	2	0	5	7
1909	2	1	0	3	7
1910	0	3	0	7	7
1911	0	2	1	6	6
1912	2	2	0	3	6
1913	1	3	0	5	7
1914	0	3	1	6	7
1915	1	4	0	6	7
1916	1	3	0	6	7
1917	0	3	0	7	7
1918	No conference schedule				
1919	2	2	0	3	7
1920	1	3	1	5	8
1921	2	2	0	4	9
1922	4	0	0	2	9
1923	3	1	0	3	9
1924	3	1	1	3	9
1925	5	2	0	2	10
1926	1	4	0	8	10
1927	1	2	0	9	10
1928*	3	0	0	1	5
1929	3	0	1	1	5
1930	3	0	0	1	5
1931	3	0	0	1	5
1932	1	3	1	5	6
1933	4	1	0	1 tie	6
1934	2	2	0	3	5
1935	1	2	1	4	7
1936	3	2	0	3	7
1937	4	1	0	2	8
1938	2	1	1	4	8
1939	2	3	0	4	7
1940	2	2	0	3 tie	7
1941	0	3	1	7	7
1942	1	4	0	5	6
1943	No conference schedule				

\*Schism in original conference; six schools withdrew and formed Big Six Conference



<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>TIED</u>	<u>CONFERENCE STANDING</u>	<u>NO OF TEAMS IN CONFERENCE</u>
1944	No conference schedule				
1945	1	2	0		
1946	0	4	0	5	5
1947	1	3	0	4	5
1948	1	1	0	3	5
1949	3	1	0	2	7
1950	1	2	1	4	6
1951	3	1	0	2	6

Overall record: Won 74, Lost 82, Tied 10,  
Pct. .464



# APPENDIX F

## DRAKE FOOTBALL PLAYERS WHO GAINED FIRST TEAM

### ALL-MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE HONORS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
1928	Gibson Holliday	T.	1945	Ralph Gruben	G.
	L. Jones	G.	1946	Ralph Gruben	G.
	C. Delmege	E.	1947	Tom Bienneman	E.
	Lynn King	Q.B.	1948	Tom Bienneman	E.
	Dick Nesbitt	H.B.		Dick Steere	T.
1929	W. Don Carlos	C.	1949	Tom Bienneman	E.
	W. Graustra	G.		Dick Steere	T.
	E. Stevens	E.		John Bright	H.B.
	Lynn King	Q.B.	1950	Tom Bienneman	E.
	Dick Nesbitt	H.B.		John Bright	H.B.
1930	W. Don Carlos	C.		Dick Steere	T.
	J. Briley	E.	1951	John Bright	H.B.
	Lynn King	Q.B.			
1931	M. Bowers	G.			
	F. Blanck	T.			
	J. Briley	E.			
	Lansrud	F.B.			
1932	M. Bowers	G.			
1933	Paul Brechler	G.			
	Jack Potts	Q.B.			
	Al Wieland	H.B.			
1934	Versil Deskin	E.			
	My Ubl	Q.B.			
1935	My Ubl	Q.B.			
1936	Bill Pettit	C.			
	Clarence "Pug" Manders	F.B.			
1937	Herb Hedlund	T.			
	C. "Pug" Manders	F.B.			
1938	C. "Pug" Manders	F.B.			
1939	Allen Dillon	T.			
	Ned Swan	C.			
	Clyde "Bud" Stipe	F.B.			
1940	None				
1941	Leonard Adams	G.			
1942	None				
1943	None				
1944	None				



# APPENDIX G

## DRAKE FOOTBALL CAPTAINS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAMES</u>
1893	B. E. McKibbon	1935	George Mellinger
1894	Harry McCormack	1936	Chuck Orebaugh
1895	Harry McCormack		Bill Pettit
1896	Fred Rogers	1937	Herb Hedlund
1897	C. B. Hamilton	1938	Robert Underwood
1898	Channing Smith		Phil Manders
1899	Joseph J. Kies	1939	Wilbur Harvey
1900	Julius F. Bacon		Thell Fisher
1901	Judge W. L. Bliss	1940	Chandler Olson
1902	Norman Bates		John Kubelius
1903	J. Clay Stuart	1941	Bill Neessen
1904	Fred C. Jordan		Bud Adams
1905	Tom Burcham	1942	Don Dillon
1906	Charles Taylor	1943	Clark Mollenhoff
1907	Alfred Hoffman	1944	Only game captains elected
1908	Bert McCoy	1945	Only game captains elected
1909	Elbert Warren	1946	Chuck McDowell
1910	James Wilson		Clint Stille
1911	George McCreight	1947	Jerry St. Clair
1912	Harold Lansing		Wally Rooker
1913	Glenn H. Simons	1948	Al Hodor
1914	Volney Diltz	1949	Dick Steere
1915	James Blackburn	1950	Dick Bunting
1916	Okla E. Smith	1951	John Bright
1917	George Neel		Bob Binette
1918	Paul D. Holliday	1952	John Jennett
1919	Russell Sprong	1953	Jim Pilkington
1920	Clyde Amme		Joe McClaren
1921	Trescott Long	1954	Lloyd Wasner
1922	Vivian Marsh		Floyd Acker
1923	Bill Boelter		
1924	Sam Orebaugh		
1925	Eldred Don Carlos		
1926	Gail Fry		
1927	William Cook		
1928	Gibson Holliday		
1929	Jack Barnes		
1930	Lynn King		
1931	John Briley		
1932	Milo Bowers		
1933	Paul Brechler		
1934	Warren Gaer		



## APPENDIX H

### THE HOMER HOLLAND INCIDENT

Although Homer "Cap" Holland made his mark at Drake as a track man, he deserves mention in Drake's football history. Because of the "professional incident", Drake football was greatly influenced.

Homer Holland was the first of several great Drake track men. In the spring of 1899, he was charged with professionalism on the following counts. At Clearfield, Iowa, in 1898, he supposedly had competed in a hop-step-and-jump contest for which the prize "was certain sums of money, among which sums was a sum of at least one dollar."<sup>1</sup> Holland won the contest and supposedly accepted the money. In another instance, he was accused of competing for money in a baseball game between Lamoni and Davis City, Iowa. This allegedly happened in June of 1897. The amount of money was in excess of two dollars.

Holland denied the charges. Affidavits, sworn to by notary publics were presented against him. Drake conducted her own investigation and presented affidavits which denied Holland's professionalism. The matter came before the Games Committee of the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Association, and, after three ballots, Holland was declared a professional and ineligible to compete in further intercollegiate athletics. Holland subsequently left Drake and returned to his home in Mt. Ayr, Iowa. A year later he was shot and killed in a drunken gambling brawl.

Drake felt that she had been unjustly wronged. She felt that Iowa and Grinnell, knowing that they could not defeat the Drake track team with Holland competing, had plotted to have him declared ineligible. Drake followers wasted little time in informing both Iowa and Grinnell that the incident was extremely unethical. Ill feeling came quickly between the schools involved, and Iowa discontinued athletic relationships with Drake.

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<sup>1</sup>Drake Delphic, October, 1899, Vol. 16, p. 10.